Tuesday November 27 1979
No 60,485
Price fifteen pence

THE TIMES

Where has all the smartness gone? Page 10

IRA launches new bomb attack across Ulster

More than 20 bombs exploded through Northern Ireland last night, hitting trains, hotels and shops, and injuring eight people, some seriously. Earlier it became known that the Government has dropped its plan for convening a constitutional conference on the province next Monday, although Mr Humphrey Atkins hopes to meet local political leaders this week.

Constitutional talks plan postponed

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The Provisional IRA mounted a devastating bombing raid throughout Northern Ireland during last night's rush hour. More than 20 bombs exploded and eight people were injured, some seriously.

The bombers attacked trains, *hotels and shops. The raids,* in four counties between 5 pm and 6.30, emphasized the terrorists' policy of spectacular attacks preceded by a period of relative calm.

In a political development earlier it became known that the Government has finally abandoned hope of convening its constitutional conference on Northern Ireland at Stormont on Monday. It is urgently trying to find a formula to save the political initiative from total collapse.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretry of State for Northern Ireland, is attempting to meet all main political leaders this week to try to find a way around the critical question of the so-called Irish dimension, which is at the heart of the crisis.

The Northern Ireland Office insisted last night that the talks were postponed, not abandoned. But there certainly seems to be no prospect of getting them going before Christmas, and indeed very little hope after that.

The train from Lisburn was halted at Adelaide, by two explosions at 5.20. Another bomb exploded on the platform at Belfast Central Station after being carried off a train. Several city shops and supermarkets were attacked and three explosions devastated the Chester Park Hotel on the Antrim Road.

A bomb exploded in the main street of Brookeborough, co Fermanagh. Security personnel and civilians were slightly hurt when a car bomb went off at Omagh, co Tyrone, and a bomb went off in the centre of Lurgan, injuring three people, one seriously.

A number of hoax calls stretched the Army, police, and fire services to the limit. The raids emphasized yet again that despite intensive efforts by the security forces the Provisional IRA remains a potent teror force.

The last province-wide attack was in March and there was *another just before last Christmas.* It has been feared for some time that the IRA was preparing an offensive before the main Christmas shopping rush in its effort to disrupt the economic life of Northern Ireland.

Other incidents were the placing by two armed men of a bomb which exploded in a shop in Bridge Street, Newry, bombs planted at Lamonts supermarket, Dungannon, the bombing of the Prudential Insurance Office at Britannic Avenue, Belfast, the bombing by two armed men of a shop in Strabane, a bomb explosion at a large store in Saintsfield Road, Belfast, and another explosion at a hotel at *Lisnaskea,* co Fermanagh, causing slight damage.

On the future of the stalled constitutional talks much will *depend on the attitudes of the* Rev Ian Paisley and the new leader of the biggest Catholic group, the Social Democratic and Labour Party. Mr Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, is standing by his decision to join any constitutional talks as long as an Irish dimension is not included.

Mr John Hume, the SDLP deputy leader, will probably be selected leader tomorrow night. He has a high reputation among Government officials, a man described by a senior source in the Northern Ireland Office last night as "someone we can talk to". That, coupled with the unusually moderate stand seemingly being adopted by Mr Paisley, offers the main hope of success.

If all else fails, the Government will ask Parliament to approve constitutional changes. That would take the form of primary legislation, as it would involve a change in the Northern Ireland Government Act, 1974, which imposed direct rule from Westminster. If the Bill was to be enacted before the summer recess, it would have to be before the Commons by spring.

Only the Democratic Unionists and the non-sectarian Alliance Party have agreed to attend the conference. The position of the Official Unionists, who refused to take part, will be clarified by Mr James Molyneaux, the party leader, in the Commons debate on Ulster on Thursday.

But the trump-cards are now held by the SDLP and the Democratic Unionists, whose participation would, in the Government's view, constitute a viable conference. The theory is that if progress were made, the Official Unionists would eventually be compelled to join in.

There is a feeling throughout the province that the Government's working paper on devolution was hurriedly drawn up and there is constant specu*lation as* to why *ministers* appear to be in a rush. The "widespread consultations" that Mr Atkins said he had are strongly denied by polisical leaders here of all sides.

Moderate elements within the SDLP say that had Mr Atkins selected a more diplomatic form of words over the Irish dimension it might have been possible to persuade the party to participate. Had the words been sufficiently vague that might also have permitted Mr Paisley to attend, they believe.

Honours for political services to be resumed

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday announced the overt resumption of awarding honours for party political services and the possible revival of hereditary peerages; the latter only for what the Prime Minister called "something of very great distinction". The forthcoming New Year's Honours list would include political awards.

There was no great surprise in the Commons yesterday at Mrs Thatcher's move, nor over the refusal to participate by Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition. Two Conservative Governments have now restored what two preceding Labour Governments abolished; the first abolition occurring in October 1966.

Since 1966 Governments have, of course, found ways of conferring political awards by another name. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said yesterday that the Liberals would accept political honours for outstanding service to democracy; but he did not want to see the honours become routine.

He told Mrs Thatcher, regarding her own troops, that honours ought "not to be used to dangle knighthoods in front of revolting backbenchers".

The more serious Labour criticism over the perpetuation of status for once found Mr Callaghan and Mr Tony Benn in near unison. The former prime minister contended that there was a very good case for restricting awards and so making them more valuable. He wanted a general review of the honours system, but the Prime Minister rejected that.

New safeguards in the scrutiny system announced by Mrs Thatcher included sending all honours recommendations for political and public services to the "political honours committee" before submission to the Queen for approval.

Leading article, page 13

Oil for hospital: After a day of talks, demonstrations and contingency planning for the mass evacuation of Charing Cross Hospital, a tanker loaded with heating oil was allowed through a picket line last night.

Earlier yesterday formal protests by doctors at the hospital and questions to the pickets about what they were doing, quickly degenerated into shouting and denuciations. Placards were torn down and medical staff removed a notice from the *roof of a hut used by pickets* (above). Later, a man was arrested.

The dispute involves members of both the engineering and electrical workers' unions, the AUEW and the EETPU. Their 50 members struck on October 23, after two men were dismissed at a disciplinary hearing for refusing to install air filters. The management refused to reinstate the two men pending their appeal. The engineers were on a work-to-rule at the time over reductions in staff,

Venezuela finds huge reserves of 'cheaper' oil

Montreal, Nov 26.—Venezuelan oil officials told a United Nations energy conference today that huge reserves of heavy oil have been located in Venezuela which can be produced below present world oil prices.

Mr Joseph Barnea, a United Nations energy adviser and scientific secretary of the conference, told the Canadian Press News Agency that the figure was equal to the proven conventional reserves of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

According to a Venezuelan paper prepared for the conference, recoverable reserves of at least 500,000 million barrels have been found in the Orinoco oil belt, just north of the Orinoco River.

Venezuela, a member of Opec, would probably be in no hurry to exploit its newly-discovered reserves and thus undercut Opec prices, Mr Barnea said.

"It would require very heavy capital investment, and they would not be interested in production at a rate that would lower the world price", he added.

The Venezuelan state oil company, Petroleos De Venezuela, reported that the cost of producing the oil would be relatively low $5 to $13 a barrel—compared with current Opec prices ranging from $19 to $23.

"The Orinoco oil belt is probably the largest essentially untapped oil accumulation in the world", the report said. "The question now arises as to how much oil is contained in this oil belt and how much may eventually be recovered".

It is estimated the total reserves are between 700,000 million and 3,000,000 million barrels, but about 500,000 million barrels a "realistic" figure for the amount that can be recovered.

The UN conference, which opens today, is studying all forms of energy resources.—Reuter.

Union leaders seek urgent meeting with BL chairman

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are expected today to make official the BL strikes over the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the Longbridge car plant shop stewards' convener.

This is the likely outcome of a meeting yesterday between Mr Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW and Mr (Moss) Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the dominant union at the motor firm. Mr Duffy said after the talks at TUC headquarters in London that the conversation "has strengthened my belief that it will be made official".

Both union leaders have also asked for a meeting with Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of BL, "as quickly as possible" to seek reinstatement of Mr Robinson and withdrawal of disciplinary action against three other shop stewards who signed a pamphlet critical of the company's "recovery plan".

Such a meeting was offered last night, but Mr Duffy said it would not be convenient for him to attend, it is now expected this afternoon. The AUEW is in some considerable organizational difficulties, as three of its seven executive council members are holding examinations in Eastbourne to draw up a new parliamentary panel for the union.

They have been recalled to AUEW headquarters in Peckham this morning for what will be the most critical union meeting so far during the Robinson affair. The TGWU is believed to have taken a decision already that the strikes should be made official, and has only been staying its hand out of courtesy to the engineering workers' executive.

Mr Evans, who would not disclose the details of his talks with Mr Duffy, was strongly critical of Leyland management. It was they, he said, who had interrupted production. "If Mr Robinson had not been sacked, I am confident that BL workers would be working now".

The TGWU general secretary added that he had read the pamphlet and in his view it advocated what Mr Edwardes wanted—e x p a n s i o n of the British motor industry—"but in a different direction".

Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent writes: *An attempt* will be made tomorrow to commit the Labour Party to the campaign for the reinstatement of Mr Robinson. An emergency resolution calling for countrywide support by the party will be proposed at the meeting of the national executive by Mr Leslie Huckfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton.

Yesterday he marched with Mr Robinson at the head of a demonstration by about 3,000 trade unionists around the streets of Birmingham city centre to a rally in the *town* hall.

Mr Robinson's supporters had forecast that the response to the call for a "day of action and demonstration" would bring such huge contingents into the city from all over the country that Birmingham would be brought to a standstill. In the event a disappointing 2,700 assembled on the site of the old Snow Hill railway station and this had grown to about 3,000 by the time the march reached the town hall.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution calling on all sections of the Labour and trade union machine to organize maximum support for the fight to reinstate Mr Robinsin and to declare the strike official. carried out.

More BL workers ignored the pickets and returned to work yesterday. At Longbridge, Mr Robinson's own plant, some 3,000 out of 14,000 manual workers went in, and some engine and gearbox production was

Leading article, page 13

Salisbury agrees to British ceasefire plan

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Salisbury delegation accepted Lord Carrington's proposals for a ceasefire at the Rhodesia constitutional conference in London yesterday.

Dr Silas Mundawarara, deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, *said,* however, that many aspects of the British Government's proposals were "extremely unpalatable", particularly the submission of Salisbury's forces and police to the authority of a British governor.

In ordinary circumstances, he said, all the ceasefire proposals would be "an intolerable interference with the sovereignty of our state, the authority of our force commanders and the general functions of our security forces and police".

But in the light of their overriding desire to end the war, the Salisbury delegation after long and anxious consideration had decided to accept the proposals.

The decision was described by the British side as a step forward, although the Patriotic Front representatives were absent from the plenary session, at which Sir Ian Gilmour was chairman in the absence of Lord *Carrington in Brussels.*

However, the Patriotic Front has asked to meet the British delegation today to discuss matters of "substance"—notably, their own principles for a ceasefire. It is also notable that Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, leaders of the Front, have not rejected the British proposals as such. There is, therefore, a feeling at the conference that, just possibly, the deadlock may be easing.

The British hope today is that some of the Patriotic Front's anxieties about the British proposals can be allayed. It appears that there is considerable room for manoeuvre in the implementation of the proposals, if not very much in the framework itself.

Dr Mundarawara said yesterday that Patriotic Front personnel were crossing from Zambia and Mozambique at full scale in spite of Lord Carrington's appeal for an end to cross-border operations.

"We will have to take action to prevent their infiltration", he said. "We threaten no one, and we do not want war, but we have no intention of letting our adversaries destroy our nation."

As regards the procedural dispute that in which the conference has been bogged down for the past 10 days, Dr Mundarawara said that if the Patriotic Front accepted the British proposals for the ceasefire the Salisbury delegation would be ready with its military commanders to discuss implementation.

But his delegation would not base discussion on the Patriotic Front's proposals.

The spokesman for the Patriotic Front last night said it was ridiculous to hold ceasefire discussions in which the commanders of the two armies were not talking to one another directly.

"Our document and the British one must be examined in minute detail, however long it takes", the spokesman added.

Smith offer to Front, page 7

China voted back into Olympic fold

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Nov 26

China formally returned to the ranks of the Olympic movement today, after a 21-year absence.

The 89 member countries of the International Olympic Committee voted, in a postal ballot, for China's readmission by 62 in favour to 17 against, with one ballot blank, one abstention and eight not returned.

Under a compromise on which the committee's nine-member executive has been working since 1975, Taiwan will remain a member, so both can be represented in next year's Moscow Olympics.

The compromise became possible when Peking asked for readmission, simultaneously dropping its long-standing insistence on Taiwan's expulsion.

The executive decided last month that an Olympic organization in China should be designated as the "Chinese Olympic Committee" and that in Taiwan, renamed the "Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee" with the latter also to stop using the Taiwan flag and national anthem. Opposing this change, the present Taiwan Olympic Committee has initiated legal proceedings in Lausanne challenging the executive's position on the name, flag and anthem.

Chinese Olympic Committee officials have mentioned the likelihood of up to 300 Chinese athletes participating in the Moscow games in July, with the possibility of Chinese representation also at the Lake Placid winter Olympics in the United States in February.

Killanin triumph, page 21

Ayatollah urges his followers to raise an army of 20 million

From Robert Fisk
Tehran, November 26

Stopping just short of calling for a jihad (a holy war) Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian Islamic leader, today urged *his revolutionary guards* to raise an army of 20 million young men and women to confront the Americans if the United States invaded Iran.

The youth of Iran, he said, should "in addition to the weapons of religion and belief, be given material weaponry as well . . . a country with 20 million young has 20 million riflemen, an army of 20 million". Although these statements by the Ayatollah should not be taken too literally—there are not enough small arms in Iran for 10 million people, let alone 20 million—h ewas nonetheless unequivocally demanding that the revolutionary guards begin training programmes for civilians.

The Ayatollah's speech is perfectly in keeping with the tenor of all his other pronouncements over the past two weeks; a growing interest in the spiritual and military possibilities of confronting the United States and a steady drift away from any political or diplomatic concerns.

Indeed, in another statement today, made in an interview for *the Japanese television network* NHK, the Ayatollah expressed his profound disenchantment with the United Nations Security Council, suggesting that it had been created by the Americans, ostensibly to further human rights but actually to oppress the weak.

"These institutions—the Security Council and the rest—have been built up for human rights but they are really constructed in order to take advantage of the weak", he said. "Last night, after Carter agreed that a meeting of the Security Council should be held, it was said that the council could only discuss the hostages

"There is to be nothing said about the Shah, nothing about our lost wealth, nothing about the oppressed people of Iran and their needs. The Security Council will not talk about these issues—only about the hostages and their freedom".

President Carter, the Ayatollah said, refused to discuss the "ordeals" of the Iranian people.

During the day, the spiritual fervour invoked by the Ayatollah was symbolized disturbingly *outside the United States* embassy in Tehran, where his student followers are still holding 49 Americans hostage for the return of the Shah. Several dozen young men converged on the embassy gates, dressed in white shrouds and holding long knives.

Security Council to meet: The United Nations Security Council met behind closed doors in New York today and decided to accept the request of its Secretary General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, for a formal open debate on the growing crisis

Disregarding an Iranian request for postponement, the Council was convening either late this afternoon or tomorrow.

Dr Waldheim called for an urgent council meeting late yesterday, stating the crisis constituted th ewrost threat to world peace since the Cuban missile crisis.—UPI.

Photograph and Shah's illness, page 8

156 killed in Saudi air crash

From Our Correspondent
Jiddah, Nov 26

A Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 707 exploded in mid-air and crashed this morning after taking off from Jiddah. All 156 people on board were killed. The *authorities* have not ruled out the possibility of sabotage.

The airliner was on a flight from Kano, Nigeria, to Karachi by way of Jiddah. Of the 142 passengers and 14 crew all were Pakistanis except for two Filipinos. One hundred and seven were pilgrims who were being airlifted out of the country as part of the Saudi Government's security measures to contain the events in Mecca.

The Boeing came down in mountainous country near Taif, 65 miles from Jiddah. The difficulty of the terrain impeded the work of rescue helicopters, but it was established that there were no survivors.

A statement from the civil aviation authorities said the pilot had radioed that he was in trouble and was given permission to turn back and make an emergency landing. Shortly afterwards a mayday message was received. That was the last

Rebels flushed out, page 7

Strike affects 29 newspapers

Journalists employed by the Scottish and Universal Newspapers Group went on strike yesterday, affecting production of the company's 29 titles. National Union of Journalists officials said that the strike involved 120 journalists and there had been a 100 per cent response to the call.

The action was taken after Scottish and Universal proposed division of the group chapel (branch) and refused to begin wage talks until the Scottish national wage agreement expired on December 31.

Clash looms over BAOR offset costs

Britain is preparing for a clash with West Germany over payments to offset the foreign exchange costs of keeping British troops on the *Rhine. In its last* payments agreement the Labour Government signed away the right to ask for any more money. Mrs Thatcher's Government, however, insists on reopening the matter. When the 1977 agreement was signed, the cost of keeping British troops in Germany was £569m a year. The Germans agreed to pay only £125m over three years. Page 6

Downturn ahead for US interest rates

Interest rates in the United States are believed to be going downwards after one leading bank announced a cut in its prime rate from 15¾ to 15¼ per cent. Expectations of falling rates overshadowed concern about the American-Iran crisis on the New York Stock Exchange and led to a high volume of trading Page 15

Small companies' aid

The Government and major banks are expected to consider a scheme to provide guaranteed loans to aid small businesses. The plan *will* be *discussed* by the Conservative Small Businesses Committee's 150 MPs today Page 15

Clash with EEC 'inevitable'

A British confrontation with her partners in the European Community seems inevitable after Mrs Margaret Thatcher met Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Community Commission, for an hour's talks in London. Mrs Thatcher is standing by her demands for broad balance in Britain's budgetary contributions and receipts. Whitehall sources said later that Britain had not been offered "even half a loaf" Page 2

'Nablus deal sought'

The Israelis are reported to be seeking a compromise under which Mr Bassam Shaka, Arab mayor of Nablus, would not be deported. The move to banish Mr Shaka has provoked bitter international criticism and led to a security crisis in the occupied territories where 25 other mayors have handed in their resignations Page 7

Cancer centres plea

Cancer treatment in London and the Home Counties should be concentrated in specialist centres, a report by a study group of the London Health Planning Consortium has recommended. Radiotherapy treatment provided in 24 hospitals should be rationalized because of the high cost of equipment, it says Page 2

Boycott left out

England have omitted Boycott and Taylor for the first of their one-day *international cup matches against West* Indies in Sydney tomorrow.
John Woodcock, page 21

Russia short of soap and detergent

Russia has been affected by a shortage of detergent and soap. The closure of a factory in Azerbaijan which produces an essential ingredient has caused a fall in output which has been aggravated by hoarding. There is also a shortage of cardboard, leading to a lack of boxes to put detergent in Page 8

Bishop to retire

Dr Mervyn Stockwood, the left-wing Bishop of Southwark, is to retire next October, "to make way for a younger man". He will leave after 21 controversial years, during which he has attacked, among others, the police, capitalists, and the Archbishop of Canterbury Page 2

Don Revie's action

Don Revie, the former England football manager, was treated with hostility over a *number of years by Sir Harold* Thompson, chairman of the Football Association, counsel for Mr Revie, said in the High Court, where Mr Revie has brought an action Page 3

Burke's Peerage sold: Dutch nobleman who is a former singing star buys British aristocracy's leading directory 2

Future of education: Warning by Schools Council chairman that further piecemeal cuts could destroy the service by the mid-1980s 3

Whitehall brief: Secrecy shrouds No 10 directive on open government 5

Poland: International support grows for "flying universities" 7

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Confrontation with Community still seems inevitable despite Thatcher-Jenkins talks

By George Clark
Political Corrspondent

Confrontation with the other eight countries of the European Economic Community still seemed inevitable last night after Mr Margaret Thatcher had discussed the prospects for the Dublin meeting of leaders with Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission.

Mrs Thatcher stands by her demand that in 1980 there should be a "broad balance" between the amount which the United Kingdom pays into the EEC budget and what is received back.

After the hour-long meeting, during which Mrs Thatcher is reported to have done most of the talking, the word from Whitehall was that "we have not been offered even half a loaf, let alone the loaf we want".

By an adjustment of the financing mechanisms, the Community is offering only o £350m reduction in the proposed net payment by Britain of £1,025m next year, and Mrs Thatcher wants a definite undertaking from the other European leaders at the meeting in Dublin on Thursday and Friday this week.

Mrs Thatcher is prepared to precipitate a political crisis within the Community if no better offer can be made.

The Commission has already submitted a paper for consideration by the European ministers in Dublin which mentions the possibility of compensation payments to countries that are called upon to pay huge increases into the Common Agricultural Fund out of dwindling resources, and a weighted financial adjustment that takes account of the relative wealth of nine countries.

Thees ideas have run into *considerable resistance*, and Mr Jenkins and the Commission will be under pressure to produce new proposals.

Interviewed in the BBC Panorama programme last night, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and Government spokesman *on foreign affairs in* the Commons, was asked whether, in the event of Mrs Thatcher not getting her way, he would rule out Britain's withholding some of the 1980 British budgetary contribution.

He replied that that was typothetical, but when pressed, he said: "I have not said we are ruling it out, or ruling it in.

"*What I can say is* that two things will not happen. One, as good Europeans we would not leave the Community. Two, we *shall* not behave as though nothing has happened.

"We shall certainly behave as though something very bad *has happened*." He *added*: "£350m is nowhere near acceptto us. It is miles away."

Sir Iian confirmed, as Mrs Thatcher has told the Commons, that the United Kingdom will do nothing illegal. "But it *is* worth pointing out that the French have been acting illegally over lamb", he added.

Mr Jenkins could have been left in no doubt that Mrs Thatcher means serious business. *She will propose*, without making any threats, that contributions should be related directly to each country's gross domestic product, which must involve a complete restructuring of the system of financing the budget.

In London, officials say that without acting illegally the Gov*ernment* could cause a lot of trouble by simply being awkward ,as the French did under the leadership of de Gaulle.

The TUC-Labour Party liaison committee yesterday issued a statement that anything less than a "broad balance" *emerging from the Dublin summit* must inevitably been seen as a major defeat for the Government.

***Michael Hornsby** writes from Brussels*: With only two days to go to the Dublin "summit" Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, went out of his way in Bressels yesterday to play down suggestions of impending crisis and confrontation.

Britain had a real and legitimate grievance over its budget contribution and the cost of common agricultural policy, *Lord Carrington said, but these* questions were "no more than family squabbles."

He was speaking to the Paul-Henri Spaak Foundation in Brussels, one of the EEC's founding fathers.

Lord Carrington added that such squabbles should "not deflect us from the wider and ultimately far more important questions of where the Community is going."

Among the priorities he singled out was the need for greater monetary stability. Britain was not yet a member of the European monetary system (EMS), but that reflected only present economic realities and not a lack of will.

Inquiry into Cabinet papers leak

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

In the first publicly admitted leak investigation of the Thatcher Government, the *Prime Minister last night* disclosed in a parliamentary written reply that reproduction of Cabinet documents in The *Sunday Times of November 18* was under investigation.

The report, accompanied by a photocopy of a Cabinet docu*ment marked "confidential"*, dealt with a hitherto unpublicized Cabinet committee known as MISC 14, whose plans *leaned towards business* and away from unions.

The aims are of course overt government policy. But the *report was the first public* revelation of the role being played by Mr John Hoskyns, the head of the No 10 policy *unit concerned with medium*-term and long-term policies.

Headings of his document included "Investigate and *publicize restrictive labour* practices", "Support managerial authority in disputes", "Slant government contracts in *favour of small and medium*-sized firms", "Deprivilege [sic] the Civil Service".

There is also a mention of *the need to give less attention* to the environmental lobby, especially regarding the long-delayed gas separation plant at Moss Morran, in Scotland.

The newspaper reported that Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment and *architect of the conciliatory* approach to trade-union reform, had been excluded from the group of ministers on MISC 14.

However, *Mr Prior* does not appear put out at the exclusion. He is on the main Cabinet nconomic committee, to which *MISC 14 has to report, so there* is no question of his not knowing what his colleagues are up to with Mr Hoskyns.

*There have been other inves*tigations by Special Branch police of leaks from ministries since Mrs Thatcher came to office. But this is the first time any MP had put down a question for written answer on the subject.

Mr Heseltine rejects mortgage subsidies

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday in the Commons firmly rejected any hope that temporary government subsidies might come to the rescue of householders suffering from the recent increase in mortgage rates to the record level of 15 per cent.

Replying to an Opposition motion condemning the new rates; Mr Heseltine rejected the possibility of subsidies on grounds of their high cost, £600m a year for a 2½ per cent reduction, and of the difficulty of providing money to help mortgage payers without encouraging the same arguments to be used for greater aid to industry.

He pointed out that money used for subsidies would have to be borrowed, so aggravating the underlying problem. But he recognized that there were real difficulties for those who had recently bought houses, and for those saving to buy.

To help the first category he urged the building societies to extend repayment terms wherever possible instead of looking for an increase in the monthly payments.

Mr Heseltine was naturally cautious about how long the high interest rates would last. He hoped that the period would be short and for those saving to buy he held out the hope that house prices were now *settling down, the dramatic in*increases of recent times having stopped.

But it was clear, as Mr Roy *Hattersley remarked* when opening the debate from the Labour Front Bench, that the British people are a great dis*appointment to Mr Heseltine.*

Mr Heseltine told MPs that there were limits to the possibility and desirability of pro*tecting people from* the consequences of their own actions. Last winter's pay claims were this year's borrowing requirements, interest rates, and *mortgage bills*, he added.

Emphasizing that the Govern-priority was the fight against inflation, he claimed that there was no purpose, other than in the shortest of terms, in attempting to isolate mortgage rates from the prevailing economic climate.

Mr Hattersley, Labour's Environment spokesman, was in no mood for optimism. There would undoubtedly be hardship and anxiety, he said, particularly among young people buying or hoping to buy their first homes and among families who had managed their present repayments only after making sacrifices.

The motion was rejected by 304 votes to 258, a Government majority of 46.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Arts campaign to open with public debate

By Our Arts Reporter

An Arts campaign is to be launched in London on Saturday with a public debate, "*Crisis in the Arts*", *arranged* by the Greater London Arts Association. A similar debate in Birmingham had to be cancelled.

Mr David Pratley, director of the association, said it was intended to lobby local and national government and business.

The debate will take place at the City University at 2.30 pm.

Ex-employee of MI5 faces secrets charge

Pamela Elizabeth Ann Lamble, a former employee of MI5, was remanded in custody for a week at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with attempting to communicate information that might be useful directly or indirectly to an *enemy*.

Miss Lamble, aged 44, a student, of Temple Dene Avenue, Staines, Surrey, was charged under section one of the Official Secrets Act.

It is alleged that on November 22 within the inner London area "for a purpose prejudicial to the safety of the state she attempted to communicate information to another person which might be useful directly or indirectly to an enemy".

Application for a remand in custody was made by acting Chief Supt R. Wilson, of the Special Branch.

65p school meals

*School dinners in Warwick*shire will cost almost double when they go up to 65p next April. The county council hopes to save £2m from school meals, milg and transport.

Closure of 12 radiotherapy departments urged by planning consortium

Only specialist centres should treat cancer

By Annabel Ferriman

Cancer treatment for patients in Greater London and the Home Counties shoul be concentrated in 12 specialist centres, an unpublished report from the London Health Planning Consortium recommends.

Radiotherapy treatment, which is provided at 24 hospitals, should be rationalized because of the high cost of modern equipment, and provided only at these centres, the report says. Twelve radiotherapy departments should be closed, including possibly those at the Royal Free Hospital, and St Mary's.

The consortium, whose study group on radiotherapy and oncology produced the report, is headed by an under-secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, and consists of 22 regional officers, representatives of London University, the University Grants Committee and postgraduate teaching hospitals.

The study group recommends that the designated cancer treatment centres should be based at *large general hospitals* and serve a population of not less than one million. Each district hospital should be linked to such a centre, and each centre would have a multdisciplinary committee to coordinate and plan the use of resources.

The number of medical oncologists (cancer specialists) should be increased because of the greater use of *chemotherapy* in the treatment of cancer and the increasing complexity of thedrug treatment.

Each district should have a medical oncologist spending most of his tim ein it, because it was becoming more difficult for one person to be both a radiotherapist and oncologist for one district.

Each centre should have day beds and five day wards available for patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and should provide postgraduate education on oncology, training for radiographers and research and development facilities.

The existence of 13 radiotherapy departments within four miles of Oxford Circus *meant* that central London was overprovided with radiotherapy facilities. There were a further four departments in Greater London and another seven in the rest of the Thames regions.

The report suggests the following locations for the cancer treatment centres:

Essex: the centre should be at the new hospital being built at Broomfield, near Chelmsford, and the existing facilities at Southend and Colchester should no longer be used.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire: patients should continue to be treated at Mount Vernon, though the possibility of resiting the Mount Vernon *facilities* at Luton should be considered in the long term.

Surrey: One centre should be sited at St Luke's Hospital, Guildford, which serves its own health district and four other districts in Surrey. The Royal Marsden's Surrey branch should provide a second centre in Surrey.

Kent and Sussex: Two centres should be set up at Brighton and Canterbury. They should take over the work done by Pembury Hospital, Pembury, and St William's Hospital, Rochester.

South-east London: A joint centre shoul dbe established between Guy's Hospital and King's Hospital, but neither site was particularly suitable. A new site should be considered.

*West London and parts of Berk*shire: A joint centre should be established between Hammersmith and Charing Cross.

East London and north-east London: A joint centre should be established between the London Hospital and St Bartholomew's, with the radiotherapy facilities being provided at the London. Oncology should continue to be well represented at St Bartholomew's.

North-west London: A joint centre should be established for the Middlesex, St Mary's and University College hospitals, with radiotherapy being provided at the Middlesex.

South-west London: A joint centre should be established between the Westminster and St Thomas's, with radiotherapy being concentrated at St Thomas's.

North London: A joint centre should be established between the Royal Free Hospital and the North Middlesex, with radiotherapy *being provided at the* North Middlesex.

Last night some departments threatened with closure were *extremely worried by the* report.

Dr David Skeggs, director of the radiotherapy department at *the Royal Free Hospital*, Hampstead, said: "While the principle of rationalization is sound because of the high cost of *radiotherapy equipment, the* treatment centres should be based at teaching hospitals because they have the sophisticated technical back-up and expertise.

Ford men set to accept 21 pc

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Ford's 59,000 manual workers appeared last night to be heading for acceptance of the company's 21.5 per cent pay offer, after a mass meeting at one of the company's more militant plants voted by two to one in favour of it.

Ford union negotiators are due to report tomorrow to the company on whether the offer, which also gives a promise of national talks aimed at reducing working hours from November, 1980, has been accepted.

The bulk of results from plants at the company's biggest centre, Dagenham, are expected today. But yesterday the *9,500* body and assembly workers at the company's Halewood factory on Merseyside voted by an estimated majority of two to one to accept.

About 2,000 workers at Swansea, 1,200 at Daventry, and 1,300 at *Leamington had also by yes*terday voted by large majorities to accept the offer.

The 53 members of the union *negotiating team, which includes* conveners from all 24 Ford plants, decided on Friday to recommendt the company's offer, *their* "final" one, which was made after 10 hours of talks.

Dr Stockwood the left-wing bishop to retire after 21 years of controversy

By Trevor Fishlock

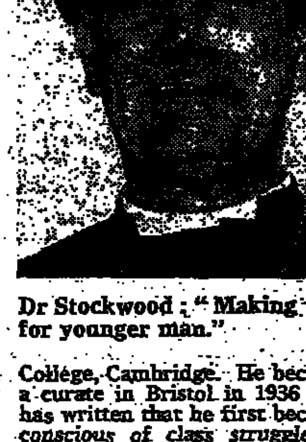
The Bishop of Southwark, Dr Mervyn Stockwood, whose outspokeness and spiky political views have made him a constant hackle-raiser for many years, announced his retirement yesterday.

He will leave the post next October, "to make way for a younger man", after 21 years at Southwark in which he has reaped a large harvest of headlines.

Indeed, the headline "Bishop in Trouble" has been a motif of his career. He has been in hot water for his attacks on police, magistrates, capitalists and the Archbishop of Canterbury. For his strong left-wing views he was dubbed "the Red Bishop," and he has accepted the label "Christian Marxist."

Inevitably, for a man with a liking for controversy, he joined in the debate on homosexuality and the church, writing in his diocesan magazine this year that love between two men *could achieve "a pure and* glorious relationship." He called on the church to "rid itself of its obsession with physical sex *and concentrate upon nobleness* in physical relationships".

Dr Stockwood, who is 66 and a bachelor, had a middle-class upbringing and went to Kelly College, Tavistock, and Christ's



Dr Stockwood: "Making way for younger man."

College, Cambridge. He became a curate in Bristol in 1936 and has written that he first became *conscious of class struggle in* his slum parish, his sympathies being drawn to those who suffered in capitalist industrial society.

Later, in his episcopacy, he was to flourish his Labour Party card, and he set down his views in lectures at Oxford and Cambridge in the 1950s, which were the basis of his book *The Cross and the Sickle*, published last year.

"Have the teachings of Jesus more in common with the teachings of Karl Marx than with the teachings of his alleged followers", he asked rhetorically in his book.

And, in a commentary he wrote in *The Times* he said: "I think it likely that during the next 100 years much of the world will move in a Marxist, or a *collectivist* direction. If so, there could be confrontation between differing regimes leading to disaster.

"*How much better that there* should be intelligent flexibility on the part of those who have political responsibility."

Dr Stockwood was a vicar in Bristol until 1955, then became vicar of University Church, Cambridge, until 1959, the year *of his appointment as seventh* Bishop of Southwark.

He took pride in leaving Bishop's House to spend two or three days a month doing the chores of a parish priest. But there were those who questioned his commitment to socialism; he was once described by one of his former clergy as "a High-Church Tory who finds compensation for his bachelor life in the glamour of episcopal office".

Noble family trees sold into foreign custody

By Robin Young

Burke's Peerage has sold i title. *The right to publish t* British aristocracy's leadi directory has been bought l Baron Frederik van Pallandt, Dutch nobleman and form singing star, for somethi over £100,000.

It may console the nobili dismayed at seeing their fa ily trees sold into foreign c tody, to know that a new e tion is ensured. The develo ment of their bloodlines h not been thoroughly chonicl since 1970, when the 105th e *tion of Burke's Peera Baronetage and Knighta* appeared.

Plans for the 106th we scrapepd in *1972*, and wh the 1970 edition was reprint in 1978, only a suppleme listed changes among t heads of families.

Baron van Pallandt earn fame as a member of the si ing partnership, Nina and F derik, which he formed w his wife, from whom he l since been divorced.

The baron, who liives on l farm in Ibiza, will not be al to make any great changes the *Peerage*. His contr obliges him to publish t book in its present format.

Burke's was founded as heraldic dictionary deduci the lineage of the exalted *1826* and published alm annually until the Seco World War. The founder's s Sir Bernard Burke, beca *Ulster King of Arms* and c tributed flowery phrases gratify the medieval fantas of the Victorian upper classe

The *connexion* with t Burke family died out in t 1930s. The copyright wh Baron van Pallandt has p *chased was at one stage in t* hands of Mallabey-Deekey, t "50 Shilling Tailor," and t companion volume, Lanc *Gentry*, appropriately belong to Maundy-Gregory, t notorious title peddler.

The titles were reunited a *bought in 1973* by the Holdw group, owned by the Norn family.

While the rival house Debrett's, under the man ment of the American, Harold Brooks-Baker, si 1976 has been busily marketi its genealogical research s vices, Burke's has tended turn toward illustrated ref ence books about coun houses and royal families a other countries' upper crus at £12 to £30 a volume.

The 106th edition of Burk Peerage is unlikely to appe before 1983, by which time t price is likely to be about £ The 1978 reprint, t £38, to total sales for the 1970 editi to nearly 8,000 copies.

Propaganda war starts over pit strike call

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

A propaganda war is shaping up in the coalfields between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board over the union executive's strike call against a 20 per cent pay offer.

The NCB has issued a special edition of the industry's paper, *Coal News*, giving full details of the offer and fringe benefit improvements, together with a message from Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the board, urging miners to think of the future for coal markets when they vote in the secret pithead ballot on Friday.

The union has retaliated with a fly-sheet edition of its journal, *The Miner, calling on the men* to support their union's executive in rejecting the offer and giving them authority to call *industrial action, including* a national strike if necessary.

In Yorkshire, Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing area president, *has* printed leaflers for every collier and issued 100,000 lapel stickers demanding "Support Your Union—Vote Yes", and organized pithead meetings to drive home the message, reinforced by a meeting of the coalfield NUM council.

He has also appeared at several rallies of more than 1,000 people. He said last night: "I have never been more buoyant as I *have* been over the last four days. The response from the members is absolutely in support".

Further *evidence* of a substantial vote to back rejection of the NCB offer came yesterday, when the area council of the traditionally moderate Nottinghamshire miners voted.

Mr Joseph Whelan, the area secretary, said: "We believe *that there will be another offer* from the coal board, and we do not think there will be a strike. With coal stocks not very healthy, the Government does not want a confrontation with the miners. We believe they will find the extra money that is needed".

And in south Derbyshire, another non-militant area, the local leadership said it would advise its members to vote for the executive unless Mrs Margaret Thatcher stepped in before the ballot with an instruction to the NCB to improve its offer.

It is the first strike ballot since 1974 and the result will be announced next week. The NUM executive reconvenes on December 6 to consider its next move.

***Ronald Kershaw** writes from Barnsley*: After describing the coal board's 20 per cent offer as "despicable and contemptible." Mr Scargill said last night when asked *about the special ballot* issue of *Coal News*: "We have warned the NCB to keep out of our business".

Pressed on the point, Mr Scargill said he would consider colliery managers who permitted *Coal News* to be circulated ar collieries to be interfering with the ballot and would ask the TUC to take disciplinary action against the British Association of Colliery Managers, which is affiliated to the TUC.

Spill affects fireman

Twelve people, including eight firement, were treated in hospital at Orsett, Essex, yesterday when a chemical spill released ammonia fumes at Orsett Haulage Depot.

'Misconduct' doctor to stay in practice

A doctor whose "bizarre" behaviour led to seriou professional misconduct was allowed to continue in practice by the General Medical Council *Disciplinary Committee* yesterday.

Judgment on Dr Maliampurackal Thomas, o f Avon*mouth Road, Avonmouth*, Bristol, was postponed twice, last July and last year.

Members o f the committee *yesterday were* satisfied with the outcome o f psychiatric treatment he has been receiving.

Dr Thomas was ofund guilty o fserios uproessional fmisconduct over allegations about the treatment o somfe of his patients. He was also said to have annoyed neighborus many times while under the in*fluence o fdrink and to have* been absent from his practice without arranging cover.

Alo against him ewre m igis*trates' convictions or drfinking* and driving, refusing to take a breath test, driving without due care and criminal damage.

For the counicl, Mr Palu Honigmann said: "Some o his behaviour, best described as bizarre, an be related to personal psychological dificulties.f"

Mr Adrian Whitieldf, for Thomas, *said* the matt against him arose about months ago. "There has be no difficulty of any sign cance ever since."

His wie had returned India or a tfime and the d tor was also moving his s gery.

Dr Thomas had beco "extremely impecunious there was *evidence* that he l *been spending wildly*, chang cars and buying alcohol inc criminately. But for some c siderable time he had be leading an absolutely norn life, Mr Whitfield added.

Rodin bronze makes record £117,977

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Rodin bronzes moved into a new price bracket when Sotheby's offered casts from the collection of Eugene Rudier, the bronze founder who worked for Rodin, in Monaco on Sunday evening.

A single figure, 80in high, "Jean d'Aire", made an auction record price for a Rodin bronze at 1,050,000 francs (estimate 600,000 to 750,000 francs) one of the many made by Rodin when working on his "Burghers of Calais" group in the 1880s. Only three other casts are known, all now in museums.

A nude bronze of "Eve", hiding her head in her arms, standing 68in high and dating from 1881, made 820,000 francs (estimate 400,000 to 500,000 francs) or £92,134, while a gigantic head, 32¼in high, another study for the "Burghers of Calais" monument, this time of "Pierre de Wissant", made 790,000 francs (estimate 350,000 to 450,000 francs) or £88,740.

This sale also included a new auction record price for a Bourdelle bronze, "Grande Penelope No 1", of 1912, at 580,000 francs (estimate 300,000 to 400,000 francs) or

The sculpture sale, largely devoted to the Rudier collection, made a totalo £875f,494, with 1.4 per cent unsold.

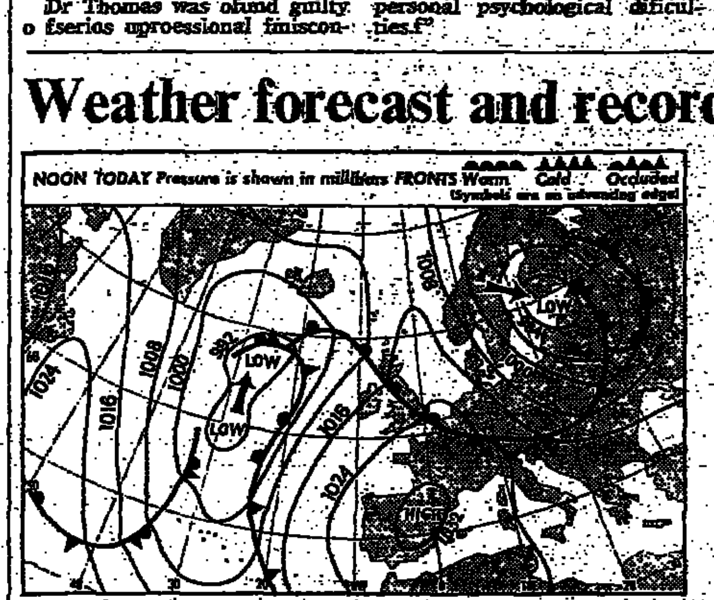
Sotheby's moved on, the same night, to sell porcelain and ine Frenchf urniture from the Cartier afilyf collection, the great fewellers, a sale totalling £844,730, with less than 1 per cent unsold.

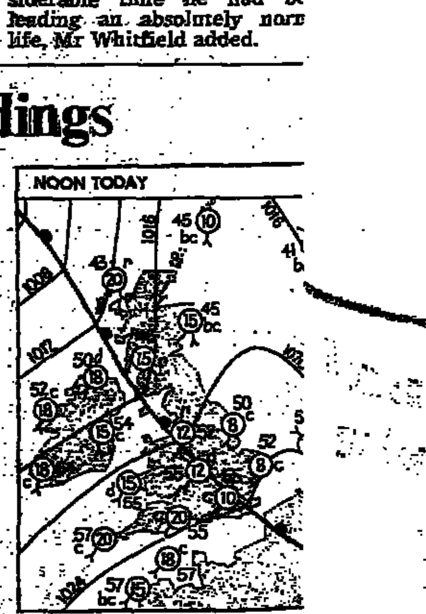
The most souvht-after lot was a suite o six armchafirs and six chairs made by G. Jacob, the great *ebeniste*, for Louis VI's chateau at St Cloud. They had been refused an export licence because of their historic importance to their historic importance to France but were sold nevertheless for 1m francs (estire 700,000 to 900,000 francs), or £11213591 to a prmvate collector who is not French by nationality but has a house in France, according to Sotheby's.

At Sotheby's mixed property nurnmturm salm mn Monaoo ymstmrday thm same unnamed bidder was also to the forc. He spent 950,000 francs (estimate 700,000 to 1m francs) or £106,741, on a Louis ½v musical box in the form of an orange tree with a singing bird, planted in an ormolu-mounted marquetry pot, which was one of the stars of the auction at Mentmore Towers in 1977, then fetching K90,000.

The furniture sale totalled £1,091,775, with 30 per cent unsold. The outstanding lot in the sale, a pair of eighteenth-century corner cupboards from Turin in marble and ormula, was unsold at 2m francs.

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow.

Today

Sun rises: 7.37 am. Sun sets: 3.59 pm
Moon rises: 1.16 pm. Moon sets: 12.34 am tomorrow.
Full Moon: December 3.

Lighting up: 4.29 pm to 7.9 am. High water: London Bridge, 6.46 am, 6.2m (20.3ft); 7.35 pm, 6.3m (20.6ft). Avonmouth, 12.3 am, 11.0m (36.0ft); 12.41 pm, 11.0m (36.0ft). Dover, 4.6 am, 5.9m (19.5ft); 4.47 pm, 5.7m (18.8ft). Hull, 11.46 am, 6.2m (20.3ft); 11.56 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft). Liverpool, 4.33 am, 7.8m (25.7ft); 5.1 pm 8.2m (26.8ft).

Pressure remains high to the S; a trough of low pressure will move NE across central and N areas.

Forecast for 6 pm to midnight:

London, SE, central S England, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, mostly dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind W, moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F). Cloudy, rain *or drizzle at first, becoming mostly* dry with bright intervals; wind W, moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).

SW England, S Wales: Mostly *cloudy, occasional drizzle*, hill and coastal fog, bright or sunny intervals in sheltered areas; wind SW, max temp 13° to 15°C (55° to 59°F).

E and NE England: Mostly cloudy with rain or drizzle at times, mostly dry at first; wind SE, light, veering SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 13° or 14°C (55° to 57°F).

N Wales, NW and central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, *SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll*, N Ireland: Cloudy with rain, heavy in places, becoming drier, hill and patchy coastal fog; wind SE, veering SW, moderate or fresh, strong in places later; max temp 13°C (55°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, central Highlands, NW Scotland: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks *of* rain, hill fog after a mostly dry start; wind SE, light, veerin gSW, fresh or strong; max temp 10° or 11°C (50° to 52°F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry and bright at first, becoming increasingly cloudy with rain spreading from SW; wind variable, light, becoming SE, increasing to fresh or strong, veering SW later; max temp 8°C (46°F).

*Outlook for tomorrow and Thurs*day: Mostly dry, bright or su intervals in central and E p with patchy overnight fog, m cloudy with drizzle in W and mild or very mild generally.

Sea passages: S North S Wind NW, backing S, moderate fresh; sea moderate.

Strait of Dover, English Chan (E): Wind mainly SW, fresh strong; sea moderate or rough

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am t pm, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm 6 am, 11°C (52°F). Humid 6 pm, 93 per cent. Rain, 24 hr 6 pm, 0.05in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 p nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 p 1,016.6 millibars, rising.
1,000 *millibars* = 29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	s	21	70	Cardiff	r	12	54	L Palmas	s	21	70	Nice	s	15	59
Algiers	s	17	63	Cologne	c	6	43	Lisbon	s	11	52	Oslo	r	1	34
Amsterdam	r	10	50	Copenhagen	r	6	43	Locarno	c	6	43	Paris	c	9	48
Athens	c	15	59	Dublin	f	9	48	London	c	15	59	Reykjavik	sn	-3	27
Barcelona	s	14	57	Edinburgh	c	8	46	Luxembourg	c	3	37	Rome	s	17	63
Beirut	f	22	72	Florence	s	11	52	Madrid	s	10	50	Ronaldsway	f	9	48
Belfast	s	8	46	Funchal	f	20	68	Majorca	s	15	59	Stockholm	r	[illegible]	[illegible]
Berlin	c	6	43	Geneva	s	5	[illegible]	Malaga	s	16	61	Tel Aviv	r	22	72
Biarritz	f	13	55	Gibraltar	f	16	61	Malta	s	17	63	Venice	f	7	45
Birmingham	c	15	59	Guernsey	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Manchester	c	9	48	Vienna	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bristol	[illegible]	13	55	Innsbruck	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Moscow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Warsaw	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	c	9	48	Istanbul	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Munich	f	4	39	Zurich	f	5	41
Budapest	fog	-1	30	Jersey	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Naples	s	15	59				

Overseas selling prices
Australia $1.60; Austria Sch [illegible]; Bahrain BD 0.600; Belgium B frs [illegible]; Canaries Pes 30; Cyprus 350 [illegible]; Denmark Dkr 4.75; Finland Fmk [illegible]; France Frs 4; Germany Dm [illegible]; Greece Dr 40; Holland Gl 2.25; [illegible] Rials 110; Iraq ID 0.450; [illegible] Republic 20p; Italy L 900; Jordan 0.375; Kuwait KD 0.500; Lebanon 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 25; Madeira 35; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir [illegible]; Norway Kr 5.00; Oman OR [illegible]; Pakistan Rps 9.00; Portugal Esc [illegible]; Qatar QR 6.00; Saudi Arabia SR [illegible]; Singapore $48; Spain Pes 75; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland Sfrs 2.70; [illegible] 4.50; Tunisia Din 0.55; USA [illegible]; Canada $1.50; UAE Dh 6.50; Yugoslavia Din 25.

Published daily except Sundays, January 1, December 25 and 26, Good Friday and May Day by Times Newspapers Limited, London WC1X 8EZ. [illegible] $255US yearly by Air Freight [illegible] paid at New York. Times Newspapers of Great Britain Inc., 201, East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017. Telephone [illegible]. All Subscription rates on request.

ɔME NEWS

ɫr Revie treated with ɔstility by FA ɩairman, judge told

aig Seton

Don Revie, the former nd football manager, had with hostility from Sir ɪ Thompson, chairman cf ootball Association. from ly stage after his appoint- and he had resigned when riticisms and murmurings. his management had ed and "it was obvious ome sort of scapegoat was sort", Mr Justice Cantley ld in the High Court yes-

Revie, aged 52, is seeking e set aside a 10-year ban s involvement in League ll imposed by the Foot- Association after he ed as England manager y, 1977. The FA had said e was in breach of con- and that his behaviour rought the game into dis-

e of the most prominent in British football will evidence for Mr Revie the hearing, which is ex- to last two weeks. They e Lord Harewood, the President of the FA, Mr tein, the Scotland football er, Mr Lawrie McNenemy, anager of Southampton, Ir Jimmy Hill, the BBC ll commentator.

Revie, who became the or of the national team of ited Arab Emirates after esignation, is seeking es from the FA and faces nter-claim for "general, lary and aggravated es" from the association. Gilbert Gray, QC, for Mr said the hostility shown Harold was such that it ot proper for him to sit FA commission which d the ban on Mr Revie, reasonable person might er there was bias, or a risk He added: "Sir Harold, own court, was effectively utor, witness, judge and

han was out of all pro- to the charges against vie and denied him the to work. Mr Gray said Mr Revie had a consul- position with Leeds d, his former club, worth £80,000 over eight years and due to start next January. He submitted that the FA's ban was invalid, as Mr Revie was bound only by his contract and not Football Association rules.

Describing Mr Revie's managership, Mr Gray said he was not very successful and England, in the run-up to the 1978 World Cup, performed only modestly. "There was a lot of criticism and murmerings were abroad. The press joined in and it was obvious some sort of scapegoat was being sought."

The court would hear from football managers that it was an unpredictable life. "It is the apotheosis of hire and fire. You are as good as last Saturday's result. They come and go very quickly. The rumours were growing and during that time there was a clash of personalities between Sir Harold and Mr Revie."

Mr Gray said during that time Mr Revie had declined offers from Saudi Arabia and "legendary" European clubs. He said he wanted to resign while on tour in South America and he had asked for two years of his contract, which still had two and a half years to run, to be paid up. It was disputed that he had asked for a further £5,000 "golden handshake".

Speaking of Sir Harold's hostility, Mr Gray said that at a meeting in 1975 between the FA and the Football League Sir Harold had criticized England's management and team costs and after the England and Portugal game in November, 1975, said that Malcolm Macdonald and Allan Clarke should not have been picked.

In March, 1977, before England's game with Luxembourg, he said that defeat "would settle it", referring, Mr Gray said, to Mr Revie's managership.

In May, 1977, after England's 1—0 win over Northern Ireland, Sir Harold had said: "What a load of rubbish".

Counsel said it was accepted that England's team under Mr Revie was introspective and that two players had declined the captaincy.

The hearing continues today.

Mongsatabam Tuleswari, aged 14, of the Manipure dance group, preparing to rehearse her solo for a Schools Prom at the Albert Hall.

Uniforms and sausages offered to motorists

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

Two unusual offers came the way of the British motorist yesterday: to buy a big Japanese car and have a free chauffeur's uniform to go with it, and to choose his favourite sausage at a motorway service area.

The uniform, made to measure by Burton, is being given to every purchaser of a Toyota Crown saloon before the end of January.

According to Mr Alan Marsh, sales and marketing director of Toyota (GB) Ltd, a high proportion of Crowns go to top executives who are chauffeur-driven. The car sells at just under £8,000.

Mr Marsh thought that Crown owners who preferred to drive themselves would find the uniform influential with traffic wardens.

BL's recent smoked salmon promotion to sell the Rover seems to have tickled the palate. During the three months August-October selected business and professional people were circularized on behalf of Rover dealers and offered a side of smoked salmon, worth up to £20, if they agreed to take a test drive. Some 16,000 people responded.

How many bought the cars is not known, but BL said yesterday that it had sold 50 per cent more Rovers during the smoked-salmon campaign than in the previous three months and had increased Rover's market share from 1.4 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

Even if the salmon had not done the trick this time, the company hoped the taste (of both salmon and car) would linger sufficiently to stimulate future sales.

It may be a long way from smoked salmon to the British sausage, which is to be the subject of a tasting experiment at motorway service areas run by Granada. Though Granada sold seven million, or 452 miles, of sausages to hungry motorists last year, it thought the time had come to see whether people would prefer an alternative to the standard pork and beef.

So the British Sausage Bureau was asked to produce ideas for a new 'super sausage" based on traditional ingredients. Motorists will be able totaste the results for the first time tomorrow at the Heston service area on the M4.

Man did not die from police kick, judge rules

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A father of four children did not die because he was kicked by a police constable in a struggle at his home, Mr Justice Tudor Evans decided in the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

The judge gave judgment for Greater Manchester police, and said: "I find he did not suffer these injuries as a result of a kick".

Mr Edward Platt, aged 36, an alcoholic with a history of mental illness, died five weeks after a doctor had called the police to the Platt home in Woodstock Road, Moston, Manchester, in May, 1973.

His widow, who has since remarried, had claimed damages against the police. The police denied that Mr Platt was assaulted, but said the injuries could have been caused accidentally in a violent struggle with him.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans, in his judgment, said he accepted the denials of the five officers called to the house that one of them, Constable Cecil Olden, kicked Mr Platt.

They all knew Mr Platt's history and had decided he should be taken to hospital. Mr Platt had been drinking and had taken tablets, a combination which a medical expert thought "would make him go nervy mad".

He was satisfied Mr Platt was aggressive and violent towards the police. He also accepted that the injuries could have been caused by Mr Platt falling against a door jamb and a radiator or when a 15½ stone officer fell on him to restrain him.

There was clear evidence that the police had been polite, helpful, considerate and concerned.

Dismissing the claim, the judge ordered the plaintiff to pay the costs. When told that she was legally aided, he directed that the order should not be enforced without leave of the court.

Thieves on motor cycle hurl cash on to road

Shoppers watched yesterday as two men on a motorcycle sped through Doncaster hurling bundles of £10 and £5 notes into the road. They were being chased by police at up to 60mph after hijacking a Post Office van.

Police said they threw away many thousands of pounds from mailbags but kept a large envelope containing £4,000 in used notes. They eventually escaped in heavy traffic.

The two attacked the van during a delivery of cash to a subpostoffice in Doncaster's Town Moor district. The driver's mate was forced out at gunpoint an dthieves drove the vehicle away. No one was hurt.

Minutes later they were spotted on the motorcycle, struggling with up to eight cloth mail bags and throwing away cash, apparently to reduce weight.

By last night all the abandoned money had been recovered and the motorcycle, which had false number plates, was found in Edlington Woods.

Police believe the men were trying to cut through the woods to avoid road blocks when their machine became bogged down in mud. The Post Office van, with a sawn-off shotgun in it, was found in a churchyard.

Couple jailed for death of son

A young married couple were sent to prison yesterday after being found guilty at Northampton Crown Court of causing the death of their son, aged 16 months, by wilful neglect. Martin Sheppard was said to have weighed when he died under half the normal.

Jennifer Sheppard, aged 23, of Rock Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, was jailed for nine months and James, her husband, who is 21 today was given a six-month sentence. They had both pleaded not guilty.

ucation leader says country must decide on plan
l stick to it—or there will be disorder by 1984

ɫore random cuts could destroy schools'

ana Geddes
tion Correspondent

varning that any further nned cuts in education destroy the service by id-1980s is given by Mr Tomlinson, chairman of chools Council and direc- education in Cheshire, in verful leading article in test issue of the council's tion magazine.

nation must decide now education it wanted and oney it was willing to on it, and then plan to- that goal in an orderly e says. Many authorities een trimming at the mar- f their education service e past five years; that not continue without very s long-term effects.

education service was not only the need to ct. It was at one of the difficult and important in its development. "Un- ve face issues squarely gree policies to deal with we may have a service in er by 1984", he writes.

Cheshire, as in many authorities, cuts in the er had to be made very y and so fell where happened to be unspent t time. They were based on expediency, not principle. As a result, not only would all the cuts be damaging but some would also cause hardship and even injustice.

Mr Tomlinson gave as an example Cheshire's decision to give no more discretionary awards to students. An opportunity that would not be reported had been removed from many aged 18 who had qualified for courses of technical, vocational or professional training and who would now not be able to take them up.

"Discretionary" did not mean less desirable than "mandatory", but that the local authority could decide on the size of the grant and the courses and students to be supported, rather than being merely an agent of central government policy, as in the case of mandatory awards. Could it have been Parliament's intention that a discretionary power should not be used at all, he asked.

We must decide what was essential in the education service and then protect it from damage at all costs. We had to recognize that education was an interrelated whole from which parts could not be removed at random.

Mr Tomlinson called for longer-term budgeting. If the Government could accept that the BBC needed a three-year budget, why could education not have the same? Was the national broadcasting system more important than the national education system?

If that could not be done for all local government services, then let us do it for educaetion, and if that was not feasible take education out of local government altogether.

So much was waiting to be done. In primary schools, pupil rolls generally would be a third smaller by 1984. Neary three-quarters of all primary schools would have to have mixed-age classes taught by teachers without the necessary experience. That meant more training and planning. It would be courting disaster if we turned our backs on those issues.

In secondary schools it was time, after a long look at the structure, to examine the process and content of education. A golden opportunity was waiting to be seized in the 1980s, reordering both curriculum and examinations to meet the late twentieth century. But a national plan was needed.

In every part of the education service the message was the same: "Think, or thoughtlessly destroy".

ɔtest at plan ɖemolish vers' wall'

Our Correspondent
inam, Powys

ɪost the entire population Welsh village has joined protest to the Ministry of port over a proposal to lish a century-old "lovers'

mellow stone wall, over- g the river Severn at inam, Powys, has been a ng place for courting es and local gossips since as built by Mr David s, of Llandinam Hall, the ı industrial pioneer.

ministry wants to replace th a metal crash barrier a road-widening scheme. nore than 350 of the 400 ters have signed a petition nding the wall's restora- to its original condition the scheme is finished.

Woman teacher of 63 loses fight for reinstatement

Miss Miriam Nothman, aged 63, the mathematics teacher who won a House of Lords ruling last year giving women teachers protection from unfair dismissal up to the age of 65, yesterday in the Court of Appeal lost her fight to be reinstated as a teacher for another two school terms.

Three appeal judges unanimously rejected her application for leave to appeal from an Employment Appeal Tribunal decision refusing to order her reinstatement. She had been awarded compensation instead.

Last August the tribunal held that Miss Nothman was unfairly dismissed from her teaching post by Barnet Council because she was not previously warned that dismissal was possible.

The council had claimed she was dismissed because of inability to carry out satisfactorily her duties at Copthall School, Mill Hill, London.

Miss Nothman, of Queen's Way, Hendon, who conducted her appeal in person, said outside the court yesterday: "I feel terribly disappointed and I shall go on fighting until justice is seen to be done. If I had been reinstated I could have gone on teaching in effect until I was 70."

Lord Justice Ormrod, rejecting Miss Nothman's application, said there were no possible grounds for granting her leave to appeal on the specific point of reinstatement as a mathematics teacher.

ɑrch for soldier ɟt in Dales

oops and helicopters failed rday to find a Special Air ice Regiment volunteer was missing in the York- Dales after being caught storm.

ı Army spokesman at rick said he was fully pped for the conditions and survival rations when he l on a navigation exercise Sunday.

ɱman named

ertfordshire police yester- named Mr Daniel Black, d 44, of Oslack Road, ingham, as the gunman who himself after burning n the home of his stepson, William Pilott, in Verity y, Stevenage.

Ruling perverse, writer says

Mr C. Gordon Tether, the former Financial Times journalist, who was dismissed after an editorial clash over the content of his daily "Lombard" column, claimed yesterday that during his 21 years on the newspaper he had been given the "prescriptive right" to choose his own subjects and to write about them in his own way.

At the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London he is challenging the rejection of his claim for unfair dismissal by an industrial tribunal. Mr Tether, aged 65, of Worplesdon, Surrey, had claimed reinstatement and compensation.

The industrial tribunal decided after a hearing lasting 44 days that he was dismissed in 1976 because the working relationship between him and the newspaper's editor, Mr M. H. (Fredy) Fisher, broke down irreparably. Under his contract he was not free to write on matters of his own choosing, the tribunal held.

Mr Tether said yesterday: "My case is that there is overwhelming evidence that, under the editorship of Sir Gordon Newton [whom Mr Fisher succeeded] I obtained the prescriptive right to choose my own subjects and write about them in my own way".

In bringing the appeal he had no desire to harass or persecute the Financial Times, he said.

He submitted that the findings of the industrial tribunal were "in broad terms perverse from start to finish".

He argued that employers did not, as a general rule in contracts of employment, have a right to make material changes in employees' terms and conditions without their consent.

The hearing continues today.

Honours for political service to be restored: Mr Callaghan declines to put forward names

House of Commons

The Prime Minister announced in a statement that honours are to be reintroduced for members of parties for political services. All recommendations for honours would be examined by the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, said he would not be submitting names from the Labour Party.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) *said*—Work in the service of political parties is at present the one major area of this country's life which is not recognized by the award of honours. I do not believe this to be right.

I have accordingly recommended that the forthcoming *New Year* Honours List and subsequent lists should include a number of awards to members of the parties for their political and public services. Her Majesty the Queen has approved my recommendation.

I do not consider that such awards should be made only to members of the party in power. I have therefore invited the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Liberal Party to submit recommendations for political honours. I am also ready to receive in the same way recommendations from the leaders of the other minority parties.

All recommendations for honours *for political and public* services will be examined by the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee before they are submitted to the Queen *for her approval*.

I should also like to take this opportunity to announce one other change in the role of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. I have asked the committee to examine any names which in future I add to the recommendations at CBE level and above which are submitted to me through the official honours machinery in respect of *services* in all fields other than that of political services.

The committee have readily agreed to do so. This further extension of the committee's function will, I believe, help to maintain the integrity of the honours system.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff South-East, Lab)—I congratulate Mrs Thatcher on this innocent diversion from some of the more pressing matters of the day. It is a matter for the Prime Minister of the day, as I properly recognize.

There is general recognition of the value of the service that is given to political parties by voluntary workers in all our parties, whoever they may be. Mrs Thatcher will remember that this system was discontinued in 1966 to some extent because—I do not wish to use too strong words —abuse of the system in the conferment of knighthoods and baronetcies by previous Tory chief whips. (Prolonged Conservative interruptions).

Having heard the enthusiasm *with which* this has been greeted on the Tory benches today, it is clear there will be no lack of *candidates again in future.* (Laughter)

The Prime Minister is moving in the wrong direction on this. As she is aware, I have had a look at some partial changes in this matter especially in the conferment of awards to civil servants who are now remunerated on a different basis from when these awards were first conferred, *and the relationships between the* civil, diplomatic and defence services.

Because there were more pressing problems, and another reason, I decided not to take any action on that limited aspect of the matter.

Now Mrs Thatcher is introducing a partial change, I regret I will not be making *nominations.* (Interruptions) Instead of making this change, this should be coupled with a general review of *the honours system as it stands* at present, both on the distribution of awards between various groups and also on the method of selection.

I am glad Mrs Thatcher is going to submit certain names to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. That was done when Mr Edward Heath (Bexley, Sidcup, C) reintroduced the system in 1970.

We are too status conscious in this country anyway. There is a good case for making the conferment of awards more valuable by making them more restrictive than by making them more easy to come by and generalising and extending them.

Mrs Thatcher — I regret that Mr Callaghan will not make any recommendations. I think, perhaps, it is a personal opinion. It is a pity to leave all these matters to resignation honours lists.

It would help a number of people in the political parties who do a vital service to democracy if they too felt they can be recommended for the regular honours list. But it is a matter for Mr Callaghan and his party.

I am aware he did institute some kind of inquiry into the principle for Crown service. He then decided not to do anything further about it. I do not think there is any need to have a general review of the honours system and by making sure that they go to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee will protect the integrity of the system.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L)—It is our view that it does not make sense at all to give honours for outstanding public service of every variety in this country except service to our democracy. For that reason, the changes announced obviously are sensible.

Mr Thatcher should not close her mind to the possibility of a review because surely these are meant to be outstanding services and not routine service of the kind for which they have been used in the past. Governments since 1966 have abused the system by ostensibly not conferring them for political honours, but by finding other ways of distributing them.

These should not be used to dangle knighthoods in front of her revolting backbenchers.

Mrs Thatcher — I am grateful to him for indicating he would take part in the political honours system. I confirm that anyone whom I recommend in the political honours system for other services would have to go to the scrutiny commitee.

I do not see any need to have a general review of the honours system, but that does not preclude minor changes from time to time.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C)—Does she include the conferment of membership of the *Privy Council among those* honours of CBE status.

Mrs Thatcher—No. Membership of the Privy Council is not included in this. It is regarded as wholly separate.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab)—As a continuation of this counter-revolutionary process and in response to pressure from her own backbenchers, will she consider *reintroducing hereditary* awards?

Mrs Thatcher—I do not wholly exclude the possibility, but it would have to be for something of very great distinction.

Mr Donald Stewart leader of the *Scottish National Party* (*Western* Isles, Scot Nat)—We have no intention of backing her up now or at any time in future. In view of *the strong loyalties of her* backbenchers over the role of transport for school children, industrial redundancies, the mortgage rates *and so on, has this scheme been* cooked up as a bribe to keep them in line?

Mrs Thatcher—That question is unworthy of Mr Stewart.

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C)—Democracy depends entirely upon *the people who work, regardless* of party, in the constituencies. It is constructive to say that the people who do this work should be *eligible for these awards.*

Mrs Thatcher—I entirely accept that view. Democracy cannot work *without the work they do.* Therefore they should be eligible for honours.

Mr Wedgwood Benn (Bristol South-East, Lab)—There is a widespread view that patronage is one of the great cancers of our society and that the granting of honours corrupts or can corrupt those people who give them, as well as those who are tempted by the hope of receiving them, or being likely to receive them.

There is also a widespread view that some dignified way of *recognizing public service would* be better than a system that entrenches social divisions and makes this country the laughing stock of the rest of the world.

Mrs Thatcher—I do not agree. This is a dignified way of recognizing a great deal of *public service, and* I hope the safeguards I have built in will preserve its integrity.

Slip up: answer to MP different from that approved by minister

MPs protested at what Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, called "a slip up" last July which resulted in Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab) being given a written answer different from the one which Mr Stanley said he had approved.

Mr Wedgwood Benn (Bristol *South East, Lab) suggested that* a civil servant had tampered with information and the Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he would make inquiries about the matter.

Mr Straw began by saying that at the end of July he had asked the Secretary of State for Environment some written questions about costs of council house sales. Mr Stanley's answer was that the information was not available in the form which he (Mr Straw) wanted. One question was about the number of years for which some people had been tenants. The other concerned what information on council house sales the Secretary of State collected from local authorities and other sources.

In *The Guardian* today, however, there was a leak of a Government *document which showed the answers* he had been given were inaccurate at best and misleading. Was it in order for a minister to do this?

Mr. Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling, C) said it now appeared that the answers to two questions, which he had approved in writing, were not those which subsequently appeared in *Hansard*. (Protests)

I apologise to Mr Straw and the house (he said) for the slip-up that occurred.

He would reproduce the answers he had originally approved, in *Hansard*.

Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—I do not think we have ever heard a stranger reply, admittedly honest, not saying anything beyond that his own answer *was altered. Would he explain* what happened after he approved the answer?

Mr. Stanley repeated that there had been *a slip up*.

He did not answer when Mr. Callaghan said—That is unheard of.

When Mr Callaghan pressed again, Mr Stanley said—Obviously as a result of an administrative error, the wrong answers were *sent to Mr Straw. Obviously*, we shall make inquiries inside the department as to how that happened. I have apologized. I cannot add anything further.

Mr Benn—At the beginning of every session, the House passes a sessional order that if anyone tampers with witnesses to the House they are guilty of the high crime of misdemeanour.

What the minister has said, which is quite unprecedented in the experience of most of us, is that a civil servant changed the answer he approved. That *is* tampering with information.

The Speaker—I undertake that I will make inquiries to see if there *is anything I can do to help the* House and will make a statement in the near future on this.

Mr Michael English (Nottingham, West, Lab) gave notice that, subject to the Speaker's statement, he might wish to raise the matter as a breach of privilege.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Transport Bill, second reading.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: European Communities (Greek Accession) Bill, second reading.

Careful evaluation of findings on US nuclear incident

The Three Mile Island nuclear accident undoubtedly had important lessons and the Energy Department was seeking a careful evaluation of the findings of the *Kemeny Commission report on the* disaster, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, said.

The Health and Safety Executive and the Central Electricity Generating Board had been doing their own studies and he had asked for *these studies* ,together *with* their views of the implications of the Kemeny findings for the United Kingdom, to be published as soon as practicable.

Mr William Waldegrave (Bristol, West, C)—A preliminary analysis *of Kemeny appears to show recom*mendations for a movement in America towards our philosophy of regulation in matters of safety and away from that of the legalistic arrangements they have traditionally undertaken.

Mr Howell—*He is correct. At first* reading, the Kemeny Commission is mainly concerned with regulatory procedures and its organization within the United States. Their concern seems to point away from their present arrangements *and towards one which might be* broadly similar to those applying in this country.

Mr Phillip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab)—The Kemeny Commission said the nuclear industry must dramatically change its atti*tude to safety. Will he disavow the* Prime Minister's infatuation with the expansion of the nuclear power programme in this country as foolish and dangerous?

Mr Howell—It is recognized in most countries and by this Government that it would be an unjustifiable risk to plan our future without a further expansion of nuclear power in some form.

Any development in reactor systems or new licences will have to be preceded by detailed safety clearance. We will have *to take* into account all the lessons we can from the views we are publishing and our own evaluations of the Kemeny report. That must be commonsense.

Mr Michael Ancram (Edinburgh, South, C)—When he considers the Kemeny report, will he look particularly at the recommendation that for the present at least nuclear power stations should be built as far away from population centres as practicable?

Mr Howell—*I have asked* for an evaluation from the Health and Safety Executive and the CEGB on these matters. We will look at all their recommendations and evaluate them in the light of our own circumstances in this country.

Mr Wedgwood Benn (Bristol, South-East, Lab)—Will he admit that the anxieties about the pressure water reactor and its inherent safety or lack of safety conditions, first drawn to the attention of the Government by Sir Alan Cottrell, *now confirmed by Harrisburg*, make it necessary for the Government to make clear they will not order a PWR in Britain until all the assessments in this country have been published so that everybody, including the House of Commons, can see what they are?

Mr Howell—This will take place. It must be right that full safety clearance is given by our well-tried and laid down *safety procedures* through the nuclear inspectorate before any new reactor went to design in this country.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C)—Will he confirm that the reactor system used at Harrisburgh was different from *the* system proposed here, being a Westinghouse, as *opposed to the* Babcox and Wilcox.

Mr Howell—He is correct. It was a United States Babcock and Wilcox design. There are a number of other designs of pressure water reactors in the Western world. If the plan was to activate a licence for Westinghouse that would involve a different technology. Any built here would be subject to our own safety clearance standards laid down by our own nuclear installations inspectorate.

Mr Joseph Ashton an Opposition spokesman on energy (Bassetlaw, Lab)—Will he look at the Kemeny report where it deals with public information and says that the public should have full access immediately to any possible information if a nuclear mishap took place.

There is some feeling that when there has been a nuclear incident there has been an attempt to cover up rather than release the full information to the public.

Mr Howell—I see no advantage in any approach which involves covers-up of vital information. There should be full information and discussion of incidents and developments involving any hazard *to the public.*

That must be the basis upon which confidence is established when we go forward with the nuclear programme as we must.

Vitrification of nuclear waste cuts danger

The vitrification process for nuclear waste storage was near the *stage of commercial* development and the Government hopes that it would be in commercial operation in the late 1980s, Mr Norman *Lamont, Under Secretary for* Energy, said.

Mr Jocelyn Cadbury (Birmingham, Northfield, C) asked when the Secretary of State expected to make a statement on the organization of the nuclear industry and further nuclear orders.

Mr Lamont (Kingston upon Thames, C)—We are reviewing our policy on the nuclear programme and the nuclear industry and the Secretary of State hopes to make a statement in the course of the next few weeks.

Mr Cadbury—*Is the Minister sat*isfied that the process of storing nuclear waste known as vitrification is well proven—(*Labour protests*)—so that the nuclear programme can go ahead without undue risk to the public?

Mr Lamont—I am satisfied that the present proposals and plans for storing waste work safely. Vitrification is near the stage of commercial development and we hope that it will be in operation in the late 1980s.

In other countries, like France, it is further advanced, but I believe it will be a considerable advance in certain ways: it will reduce volume and reduce the danger of movement and of leakage.

Mr Bernard Conlan (Gateshead, East, Lab)—he last thing this industry wants is another period of *uncertainty caused by proposals* for reorganization. Far more important is a steady ordering programme which will fill the unused capacity at present.

Mr Lamont—I agree that one can have many opinions on the way the industry ought to be organized. I do not quite agree that it is unimportant, but more orders are the most important thing for the industry.

Mr Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C)—We should learn the lessons of Dungeness B and realize that *nuclear stations started* before the plans are completed adds to the cost and causes deteriorating labour relations.

Mr Lamont—*Mr Costain is correct.* The history of Dungeness B is a sorry one. It added considerably to costs, but what happened shows, all the more, the need to reorganize the industry.

Mr Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, C)—It is not just Dungeness B which has been a disaster, but the other four AGRs. Two of them have produced *no electricity and the other two are* running at lower than their original design ratings. They will never get back.

Mr Lamont—*It is still the opinion* of the CEGB that investment in AGRs is worth while and that investment in the nuclear industry is going to provide a cheap and competitive form of energy.

Energy conservation

Mr John Moore, Under Secretary for Energy, *said*, during questions, *that to the end of the century the* Government assumed there would be about a 20 per cent energy saving from added conservation *measures*.

We see (he said) a saving of 28 plus per cent in industry, 27½ per cent in the domestic sector, 34 per cent *in transport and 22 per cent in* the commercial and public sector.

A subsidy on mortgage interest rates would simply encourage house prices to increase

Whatever owner-occupiers would suffer on January 1 was the direct result of the economic and financial policy which the Government had chosen to follow, Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab) said in opening a debate on mortgage rates.

He said it was not simply monetarism—*to which* all the blame had been attached by Mr Geoffrey Ripon (Hexham, C) in an impressive letter to *The Times*—which was at the root of the problem, but excessive monetarism, and not simply excessive monetarism but incompetent monetarism.

Mr Hattersley moved "That this House recalls the statement in the Conservative Election Manifesto that 'the prospect of very high mortgage rates deters some people from buying their homes and the reality can cause acute difficulties *to those who have done so*', notes that the manifesto attributed high mortgage rates to Government financial mis-management, and condemns *the present Government* for applying policies which result in the mortgage rate being increased by the largest amount ever *to the highest rate in history.*"

He said that on January 1, 1980, mortgage would rise by 3.25 per cent, the highest increase ever, to 15 per cent, the highest rate ever. As a result of that, mortgage holders faced the largest increase in repayments in real terms they had ever been forced to endure.

There would undoubtedly be hardship and anxiety, particularly among young people buying, or hoping to buy, their first homes, and particularly among families with modest incomes who had managed their present repayments only after making some sacrifices.

The Times was a paper which normally prided itself not only on its rigid financial probity but on its rigid respect for the law. Yet on November 24 its correspondent's advice to those "in extremenis" was first, *they should consider* passing their mortgages on to their children, and second, that endowment holders should *ignore* their *legal obligation to complete their* payments within a fixed term.

If *The Times* was simultaneously recommending such an *extraordinary financial expedient* and so remarkable a flouting of the law, things had got to an extreme case.

The *increase of minimum lend*ing rate to 17 per cent and the consequent increase in other interest rates (he said) are directly the result of the Government's incompetent attempt both to deflate the economy and to reduce direct taxation at the same time. The two aims are mutally incompatible and have turned its economic policy into a farce and have even penalised those people. It was most anxious to assist.

All the evidence suggested that recent gloomy predictions that high mortgage rates were going to last were true.

MLR would persist at its historically high levels as long as the Prime Minister persisted with her monetary remedy to all the problems and as her monetary remedies continued to fail.

The *decision and obsession* with selling council houses and financing their sales through the private building societies would push up *and hold up mortgage rates.*

As a result of what the Government did last July, they had managed to produce the highest mortgage rate in history and a mortgage famine simultaneously—no mean achievement.

There were allegations that the Prime Minister *in particular*, with her comment in July about societies thinking long and hard before putting up their rates, and her suggestion by implication that the *societies should live within their* reserves, had duped the societies. He did not make that charge. He thought the Prime Minister was guilty of something she would *find* even more difficult to admit. She was wrong.

She genuinely believed that her monetary solution *in the summer* would put everything to rights. She really believed that by the pressure she hoped to put on the economy the uniquely high *interest* rates would not persist, but they did, and they were in a situation of interest rates at a record level and mortgage holders suffering more than ever before.

Over the last three months only seven mortgages had been provided for the eight made available to intending home buyers in the previous two years and building societies feared that over the next year, even with rates at a uniquely high level, there would still be a mortgage famine.

The Government's new economic policy had turned out over the past six months to be no more than old-fashioned deflation dressed in fancy language. It was incompetently applied old-fashioned deflation.

The time had come for a *measure of controlled expansion*. That was essentially dependent upon the Government abandoning some of its dogmas and coming to the *conclusion that the only way* the economy could be properly managed was by tackling costs and tackling them at their source.

No doubt Government supporters would troop into the lobbies to vote down the words on which they fought the election. The British people, however, had noticed and in his belief would not forget.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment (Henley, C), moved a Government amendment to make the motion read:

"That this House, while recognizing that the present level of mortgage interest rates will place *an additional burden on home* owners, realizes that this group cannot be totally insulated from the general level of interest rates *in the economy* and re-affirms its support for the essential measures which the Government has taken to reduce its claim on public expenditure *and to combat inflation.*"

He said that if there was one lesson which should have been learnt by this time it was that inflation left no part of society unaffected. To subsidize mortgage rates would simply encourage house price *increases* and switch the burden from those who had just bought to those saving to buy.

The central task was to change the prevailing economic climate. It was this that the Labour Party, freed from responsibility in office, was determined to frustrate.

Every warning of the former Prime Minister and Chancellor in the House in the early months of this year was abandoned as the *consequences they clearly forecast* in January came about. By their cynical pretence that they never foresaw those consequences, they *would aggravate the problems* and harden the attitudes that must change if inflation was to be conquered.

If Governments borrowed at levels of £8,000m to £9,000m a year, all interest rates would be affected. It was not building societies which set interest rates. They reacted to the market and in Britain the market was dominated by the high demands of Government borrowing.

The financing of council house sales, if in the private sector would be a commitment on the building societies. He had asked the societies *to join in a working* group to see what further source of finance there was for them in the private sector.

The *statutory* right to a 100 per cent mortgage enshrined in their pledge to council tenants would to a substantial extent be financed by local authority mortgages. That in effect was dividing council debts into smaller packages and passing them on to present local authority tenants, who would pay off those debts more quickly.

There was no doctrinal view on temporary subsidies for building societies and there could be occasions when they were appropriate but he did not believe this was one. To achieve a 2½ per cent cut in the mortgage rate would cost £155m for three months, or an annual rate of £600m. That would have to be borrowed and would aggravate the underlying problems.

If they subsidised the mortgagor, there was every argument for subsidising industry, which had a similar and even more pressing case. That would lead to more borrowing and a further aggravation of an *already difficult situation.*

Anyone who had borrowed in the climate of the last 18 months of the last Government while house-*building declined* and prices rose by 35 per cent or, in some parts of the country, doubled, was likely to be in the most exposed position in present circumstances.

He welcomed the indication from the societies that they would extend repayment terms wherever possible just as they had under the previous Government.

He hoped that the present period of high interest rates would be short. They must take action now to *maintain the fight against infla*tion without which the long-term problems would increasingly assume the characteristics of the short-term problems.

To achieve their aim of wider home ownership they must pursue policies which restrained soaring house prices while encouraging the growth of real disposable incomes. They, therefore, must welcome the signs that the *dramatic* increase in house prices which had characterised the last period of the previous Government was showing a significant change.

The Government was looking at the *constraints on the availability* of land for development. It was taking measures to release publicly-owned land that could be put to *useful* purpose; already in the first six months of government 1,000 acres of surplus land had been sold off.

The practice of offering public sector land all round the rest of the public sector before sale had been abolished. It was simply an encouragement to organizations to buy that which they did not need in anticipation of demand that often did not materialize.

The planning processes were being subjected to detailed scrutiny to speed up the decision-taking processes. The Government intended to exempt many small planning matters from detailed control altogether. It was clarifying the *overlapping responsibilities for* planning in local government.

We are (he said) determined to stick to the central theme upon which this Government was elected, and that is to pursue with every weapon the battle against inflation. (Conservative cheers.)

There are limits to the possibility and desirability of protecting people from the consequences of their own actions. Last winter's pay claims are this year's borrowing requirements, interest rates and mortgage bills. But in addition to the battle against inflation, we are doing all that government can *to encourage home building and* ownership.

Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham West, Lab) said all households between £3,000 and £10,000 a year, the majority of the population were now 4 per cent worse off as result of the main Government financial changes made since last May. This contrasted with the £25,000 a year families who were now 8 per cent better off.

Mr John Heddle (Lichfield and Tamworth, C) said the stabilisation of the economy and the conquest *of inflation was a painful business.* This debate served as an epitaph on the extravagance of the previous government.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) said that far from the main issue being whether or not council houses should be sold, the more important thing would quickly be whether enough council houses were being built to meet the massive increase in demand which was coming.

Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle, Lab) said the way the owner-occupied sector was subsidised was one of the factors causing house prices to escalate.

Mr John Major (Huntingdonshire, C) said they could not contain inflation without a reduction in PSBR and control of money *supply first.*

Mr Walter Johnson (Derby, South, Lab) said that there should be an inquiry into the activities of the building societies, or they should be referred to the Monopolies Commission. There were 300 of them supposedly in competition but all charging basically the same rate.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, an Oppo*sition spokesman on environment* (Manchester, Ardwick, Lab), said the Government's spending cuts were reducing the council house building programme to the lowest for more than a generation. While the Tories used slogans about helping home buyers, it was Labour who helped.

For years the Prime Minister had presented herself as the symbol of cheaper mortgages. The Government came to power on a specific promise to bring down mortgage interest rates. Mrs Thatcher had betrayed that promise and those whom that promise deceived into voting for her.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction (Tonbridge and Malling, C), said throughout the election campaign and since the Opposition had called for higher and higher public expenditure which could only have resulted in interest rates still higher than those Labour MPs had condemned today.

If there was any single factor which lay at the heart of the present record level of interest rates it was the monumental weight of debt that was put around the necks of every man, woman *and child in this country* over the past five years.

The Government had never maintained that money supply was *the sole instrument of economic* policy, but it did consider that control of the money supply was one of the essential preconditions *for controlling inflation.*

The Opposition motion represented a dismal combination of economic irresponsibility and political humbug. It should be thrown out.

The Opposition motion was rejected by 304 votes to 258—Government majority, 46 and the Government amendment agreed to.

Talks on French collaboration in nuclear policy

During questions about possible Franco-British co-operation on nuclear policy, Mr Arthur Palmer (Bristol, North-East, Lab) said that about three years ago, under the Labour Government, it was intended to proceed with the commercial fast breeder reactor, subject to public inquiry.

Is that position now altered (he asked) and is it proposed to proceed with the fast breeder reactor in collaboration with the French?

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy—The fast breeder reactor has a place in the nuclear future. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and other parties have been exploring possibilities with the French for development in this sphere. I expect to receive a report before Christmas, and I will then be con*sidering it.*

Dr David Owen, Opposition spokesman on energy (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab)—Mr Howell has an option of collaboration on the fast breeder reactor not just with France but with West Germany and also the United States. Would he assure the House there can be no question of entering into a partnership with France in which *Britain would be seen as the* junior partner?

Mr Howell—There is no reason to see this in a purely bilateral way. It could be tripartite. France have an arrangement with Westinghouse until 1982. If this country were to *decide go go along that path*, then there would be certain time constraints we would have to consider.

Fuel supplies

Mr John Moore, Under Secretary for Energy, *said* at question time, that given normal seasonal weather and no interruptions in production or supply he did not foresee any general difficulty in meeting fuel requirements this winter. However, the need for exercising the maximum restraint in energy consumption remained as important as ever.

Ministers look to the oil industry for help with training of divers

From Ronald Faux

Fort William

The Government is reviewing the future operations of the Underwater Training Centre at Fort William, which has helped significantly to reduce the death rate among North Sea divers. A five-year management contract with Shenley Trust Services runs out next month and the Government is considering ways of encouraging the oil industry to accept more of the cost and responsibility for training commercial divers.

The centre was opened after the diving accident rate during the early development of the North Sea reached the level of carnage. Twenty divers were killed in one eight-month period and others were severely injured in diving accidents. Last year there were only three diving fatalities even though the number of men at work beneath the North Sea had increased vastly.

Although the accident figures emphasize the need for legislation setting a qualifying standard both for the divers and the men supervising them on the surface, a law has not yet been introduced. The Government is caught between insistent pressure to develop the North Sea quickly and the limited availability of divers with the right quality of training and experience. Divers are the linch-pin of getting the oil to the surface. As one diver said at Fort William: "There is no doubt in my mind that North Sea oil has been paid for with human lives."

The Fort William school is one of two such centres in the world. The two hundredth student in deep saturation diving is about to qualify. The six-week course costs £7,500 and introduces the most advanced deep diving techniques. A further 450 divers have qualified on a three-month course teaching the use of compressed air equipment in dives of up to 150ft. Since the centre opened four of the "air" divers trained there have lost their lives. None of the mixed gas divers who operate at the greatest depths has been killed.

Mr Julian Thomson, General Manager of UTC, said a substantial number of divers trained at Fort William were working in the North Sea. "The question of legislation is bogged down between the Manpower Services Commission, the diving industry and the oil industry. This centre costs £1m a year to run and almost all the students are paid for by the Government through the Training Services Division. The industry has shown absolutely no inclination to take on the cost, indeed the only deep diving training centre operated by the industry has closed down. The danger is that if this centre follows the same road the accident rates will inevitably start to rise again", he said.

Fort William was chosen because it is the only place in Britain which has good communications near a sheltered 500ft deep hole in the sea.

The most likely change to come from the government review will be for the Petroleum Industry Training Board to take over management. The board operates a system of levies on the oil industry. That would shift the full cost of diver training away from the Treasury and ensure that a diving lifeline was kept open.

Bell device that might have saved men 'removed'

Two North Sea divers who died after their lifelines were severed could have been found immediately if their diving bell had had an electronic "pinger", an inquiry in Aberdeen was told yesterday. It was stated that the "pinger" had been removed.

The two men were found alive after a four-hour search but died before the bell was raised. Sheriff William Murdoch said the lack of a "pinger" seemed to be the most significant thing in the inquiry, because they could have been rescued two or three hours earlier. He is to announce his decision later.

Mr Malcolm MacNeil, the Procurator Fiscal, said he believed there were moves to establish an international frequency for "pingers".

Those present at the inquiry stood for a moment's silence because it was the anniversary of the deaths of the divers, Mr Anthony Prangley, aged 28, of Stanmore, Middlesex, and Mr Michael Ward, aged 25, of Southampton.

The agent for the divers' next of kin, Mr Reginald Christie, said the men might have been saved if the "pinger" had been fitted to the bell, but it had been removed.

He submitted that "pingers" should be mandatory on bells.

Mr Prentice 'cannot intervene' to help boy

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Social Security, has declined to intervene in an appeal against refusal of mobility allowance to a boy aged 14 suffering from Down's syndrome.

His letter to the Child Poverty Action Group yesterday said he could not influence an individual claim. His statement was described as "nonsense" by Mr Nicholas Warren, the group's legal officer.

"The last government promised these children would get mobility allowance", Mr Warren said. "When the regulations were published we were assured they would cover Down's syndrome."

At least one medical appeal tribunal has found it impossible to decide a case under the regulations, introduced last March, after a test case established that Down's syndrome children with walking difficulties were covered.

Mrs Martha Street, of Cardiff, recently won an appeal on behalf of a boy aged 14 who was refused the allowance under the old regulations and again in April when a medical board reviewed the case under the new rules.

Whitehall brief: How public right of access to official information is curtailed

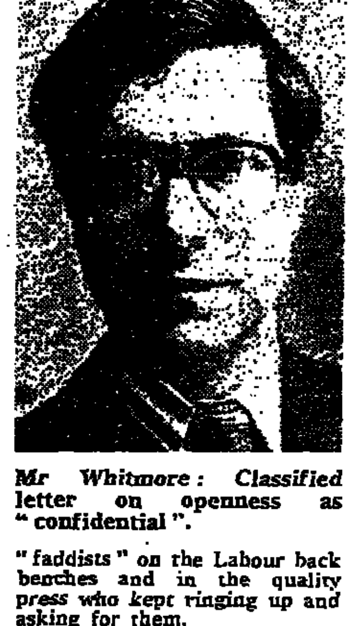
Secrecy shrouds No 10 directive on open government

By Peter Hennessy

Now that the Prime Minister has been obliged by events to withdraw the Government's Protection of Official Information Bill, which if passed would have maintained Britain's position as the Monte Cassino of secrecy in the Western world, it is timely to inquire about the positive side of the secrecy business and pin down the Cabinet's precise position on open government.

Waiting for Mrs Margaret Thatcher in No 10 on May 4 was a paper on possible expenditure savings prepared by the Civil Service Department (CSD), of which she is ministerial overlord. It suggested she might wish to curtail the dispersal programme for moving civil servants into the regions. She did, and so, incidentally, did the CSD. She might want to avoid further costly steps towards more open government. She did, and so did the CSD.

The CSD managed to claw back even more. The department had never forgiven its former chief, Lord Croham, for saddling the Civil Service in July, 1977, with an open government commitment in what became known as the Croham Directive. Officials particularly resented having to keep lists of material released under that policy to send to a handful of "faddists" on the Labour back benches and in the quality press who kept ringing up and asking for them.



Mr Whitmore: Classified letter on openness as "confidential".

Ministers were persuaded that that was a waste of public money. Departments no longer keep lists and, according to insiders, the increasing flow of paper emerging in Mr Callaghan's last 18 months in office has dwindled to a trickle.

On top of that, Mrs Thatcher did not replace GEN 146, the Cabinet Committee of civil servants appointed by Mr Callaghan to prepare a variety of open government schemes designed to "buy off" Mr Clement Freud's Official Information Bill if it came anywhere near becoming law. Miss Caroline Morrison and Mrs Barbara Sloman of the CSD were redeployed on other work and Mr George Moseley, chairman of GEN 146, could again devote all his time to worrying about personnel matters of the Civil Service.

This slightly jaundiced analysis has been privately challenged in Whitehall. True, GEN 146 has gone and the Croham Directive has been amended, but look at Mr Paul Channon's statement in the Commons on June 20 that "it will be the practice of this Government to make as much information as possible available, including background papers and analytical studies, relevant to major policy decisions".

What is more, the informant continued, the Prime Minister has made it crystal clear to ministers that they must personally ensure that their departments push out as much material as they can. Given the hold she has over her colleagues, "this Cabinet could be more effective in their open government policy than the last one, which never really believed in it".

Mrs Thatcher's personal injunction to openness takes the form, it transpires, of a letter dated June 20, signed by Mr Clive Whitmore, her principal private secretary, and sent to his equivalents in the private offices of Cabinet ministers. For some reason Mr Whitmore classified it "confidential", thereby ensuring that the latest Whitehall directive on open government must remain a secret.

A telephone call about the Whitmore letter to Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, elicited the following "on-the-record" reply which a Downing Street spokesman insisted must be quoted in full or not at all:

It is not the Government's practice to release the texts of correspondence between ministers or their private offices, so I am afraid I cannot release a copy of the letter you mentioned. I can, however, confirm your understanding that the letter conveyed the Prime Minister's wish that ministers should give close personal attention to and take the initiative in publishing information, especially on major issues of parliamentary interest, to the greatest possible extent.

The spokesman omitted to mention that the Whitmore letter goes on to say the Prime Minister has no intention of introducing legislation to establish a public right of access to official information and that no further formal steps will be taken to that end.

To supplement the No 10 statement and Mr Channon's answer, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, has agreed to release the minute he circulated in his department on June 21 in response to the Whitmore letter. Headed "Release of information to Parliament and the public", it reads:

The House of Commons was informed yesterday . . . that it will be the practice of this Government to make as much information as possible available, including background papers and analytical studies relevant to major policy decisions. We must ensure that these arrangements are effective in defence, and publish information, especially on major issues of parliamentary interest, to the greatest possible extent consistent with the requirements of security. It will be for ministers to decide what material can be released in each specific case, and I should be grateful if you would bear this consideration in mind.

Until Mr Whitmore's letter is declassified and released at the Public Record Office on January 1, 2010 (by which time Mrs Thatcher may be in the House of Lords or its equivalent), the Downing Street statement and Mr Pym's minute will be all Whitehall watchers have to go on, unless, of course, Parliament manages to pass a freedom of information Bill in the meantime amending the 30-year rule.

Welsh nationalists shown road to socialism

Regional report

Tim Jones

Cardiff

As the decade wanes, members of the Welsh nationalist party find themselves in the kind of apocalyptic turmoil which is besetting the Labour Party. Bloodied and bruised after a series of reverses, Plaid Cymru has embarked on a soul-searching exercise which could if mishandled threaten its stability and credibility.

It has, in effect, got to decide exactly what kind of party it is. The all-embracing umbrella of self-determination is not enough to sustain its battle for future Welsh votes.

Like the Labour left in Britain which argues that the May, 1979, election was lost because people were not given the choice of radical socialism, a strong element of Plaid theoriticians is seeking to commit the party to republican socialism in an effort to restore lost fortunes.

It is a difficult and dangerous road which relies on assertions which can be challenged by people inside and outside the party. In any event, Plaid's task is unenviable, for the populist issues it embraces—such as unemployment, jobs, pit closures—are defended in parallel by the Labour Party

By its next party conference, Plaid members will have had time to digest an astonishing attack on its raison d'etre published in uncompromising mood by two of its activists. Mr Gareth Miles, a Marxist, is the national organizer of the only Welsh-based teachers' union, and Mr Robert Griffiths is a full-time researcher with Plaid Cymru.

Their pamphlet contains a foreword by Dafydd Elis Thomas, MP, whose farming constituents in Merioneth may choke over their tea cakes on reading the call for land to be placed under the democratic control and ownership of the Welsh people.

According to the authors, the massive "no" vote in the devolution referendum was not a verdict against the Labour government's proposals as such. "Rather it was a repudiation of watered-down Welsh nationalism, and an affirmation of the Welsh inferiority complex." The authors say that the monarchy is a weapon wielded with cunning by the English ruling-class to inspire loyalty to the British state, and it must be opposed if Britishness is to be challenged and Welshness and egalitarianism exalted in its stead.

Condemning the Plaid leadership for supporting the referendum campaign, the authors, referring to the hope of eventual self-government through an assembly, say: "All this can come to be, they claimed, without any stand-up fight, any subversive activity, certainly without violence (let the Welsh nation perish rather than that) against the British state, its forces, institutions and ideology."

"A new leadership must be built to fight for, and become the expression of, a Plaid Cymru which is, at every level, socialist and consistently anti-British. This struggle is, in itself, worthwhile; but in the event of the 'rural right' keeping its grip on the purse strings and the internal levers of power, socialists and republicans in Plaid Cymru should have the courage, as well as the strength and organization, to leave Plaid Cymru and contribute to the setting up of an independent Welsh socialist Party."

The authors put forward a programme of aims for a Welsh socialist republican movement which, with the exception of promoting Welsh autonomy and saving the language, is virtually indistinguishable from the remedy propounded by the Labour left for Britain's ills.

No doubt, when he retires next year to the haven of his Carmarthenshire market garden, Mr Gwynfor Evans, Plaid's president, will look back on a decade during which his party achieved unprecedented success. He may heave a private sigh of relief that he will be spared the coming ideological storm that could tear his party apart.

Choreographer leaving the Ballet Rambert

By Martin Huckerby

Mr Christopher Bruce, Ballet Rambert's codirector, who has been the company's principal choreographer and a leading dancer for many years, is leaving, largely to develop his freelance career.

Mr Bruce has choreographed 15 works for the company since he joined it in 1963. He remains codirector of the Rambert Academy.

Miss Prudence Skene, administrator since 1975, becomes director (administration); Mr John Chesworth remains director.

RSC visit: The Royal Shakespeare Company will visit Newcastle upon Tyne for six weeks from February 18 next, presenting at the Theatre Royal Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar* and *Twelfth Night*. At the Small Gulbenkian Studio there will be performances of Shakespeare's *Pericles*, Brecht's *Baal*, Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, Nikolai Erdman's *The Suicide* and Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

Guernsey tax allowances to go up next year

From Our Correspondent

St Peter Port

Substantial improvements in income tax allowances for 1980 are proposed by Guernsey's finance committee in its budget report published yesterday, which is to be debated by the island parliament on December 12.

The committee recommends that the standard rate of income tax should remain at the 20 per cent level maintained for the past 20 years and that for the third successive year there should be no increase in indirect taxation.

Miss P. Arrowsmith

Miss Pat Arrowsmith, who has entered into a marriage of convenience to enable her to inherit £20,000 left by her father, asks us to make clear that she intends to give the main part of the inheritance to the Troops out of Ireland movement. She has already given a proportion of it to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Anti-Nazi League and the Kampuchea relief fund.

HOME NEWS

British Rail may press for full ownership of Channel tunnel

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

British Rail are likely to press for full railway ownership of a new Channel tunnel rather than the heavy private sector involvement envisaged for the earlier, abortive project.

The main reasons are that the "mini" rail-only tunnel now proposed looks like being an attractive investment for thr railways; and a private sector partnership appears to offer no significant advantages.

An internal study prepared for the European Parliament concludes that with a projected return of 13.4 per cent British Rail, with the French railways as their likely partners, should think of taking full advantage of the financial benefits of the project by owning the tunnel themselves, as well as the rolling stock and terminals at either end.

At a current cost of £800m for a single-track, rail-only tunnel built to the larger Continental dimensions, a surplus of £65m is predicted in the first year of operation, and a cumulative surplus of £280m withi nfour years.

Various ways of funding the project are looked at, including leasing, which could provide substantial tax advantages to the company that built the tunnel and leased it to the railways. But the broad concksion is that private sector funding of the tunnel offers no marked advantage.

Bankers' advice is that outside equity capital is unlikely to be available for tunnel construction, and that comprehensive government guarantees would be required for either the public or private sector.

That raises the "bogy" of public sector borrowing imits, which, however, could be met by the tunnel's probable benefits to the national economy, the study concludes.

Toy prices vary by as much as a half

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Parents could well be spending £25 more than they used to this Christmas on every child under 10, because retailers charge widely differing prices for popular toys and games.

Customers are intent on spending more than £300m on toys and games before Christmas, or about £50 for every child under 10, but the highest prices exceed the lowest in many cases by more than half.

For example parents who buy "Soldier Action Man" at W. H. Smith this week will pay £9.49 for a toy that is widely available elsewhere at £5 less.

A survey yesterday showed thta prices for Waddingtons' dentist game, in which the "patient" emits an agonized scream i fthe contestant touchse a gum while trying to extract a tooth, range from £5.80 to £8.69.

A few shops are still selling Lego 10 kits at an old discount price of £3.25, while most are charging more than £4 and Harrods £4.80. W. H. Smith sells standard Scrabble at £2.95, while the Harrods price is now £4.25, but Harrods sells Scalextric 300 sets at £31.81, against Woolworth's £38.99.

The now defunct Price Commission reported in August that it had found large price differences among toy retailers in a survey in March.

The evidence suggests that the price war in toyland has become hotter in a pre-Christmas push. Almost half the sales of toys and games are made in the Christmas quarter and some of the big companies offering the biggest discounts concentrate their sales at the Christmas period.

The Price Commission's finding, borne out by smaller surveys since, was that no type of retail outlet was consistently cheaper for all toys, and that consumers should shop around.

The recommendation is not easy to carry out. Already many shops report that crowds make it difficult to move around.

RAF loses 24 aircraft and two crew in a 'black' year

By Our Defence Correspondent

The loss of an RAF Jaguar strike aircraft which crashed near Ben Nevis on Friday brings the total of RAF aircraft lost this year to 24.

Sixteen aircraft croshed in Eritain and the rest were lsot abroad. Last year 14 crashed; 10 were lost in 1977 and 17 in 1976. The average loss for a year is 20, so 1r79 is already being regarded as a black year for the service.

Only two aircrew have died this year, discounting Friday's crash, compared with 12 in 1978, four in 1977 and 10 in 1976.

Three civilians have also died as a result of RAF accidents this year, the same number as in 1977, but in 1978 and 1976 there were no civilian fatalities.

An RAF official said last night that the chance of a civilian dying in a service accident was still only one in 55,879,666, while the statistic for civil road accidents was one in 7,900 and for industrial accidents one in 1,700.

The RAF has lost 76 aircraft in the last 1,500,000 flying hours, which is the lowest average of any Nato country.

The RAF aircraft which have been "written off" after crashes in 1979 are: seven Harriers, four Jaguars, three Hunters, three Lightnings, two Jet Provosts, one Phantom, one Buccaneer, one Bulldog, one Gnat, and one Wessex helicopter.

School aims to make world airways safer

From Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
Bath

A school for air traffic controllers which has been established in a Georgian mansion in Bath aims to make the airways of the world safer.

The school was formally opened yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, a former airline pilot.

It is in Bailbrook House, built in 1790 which is owned by International Aeradio, a company formed in 1947 to provide aviation tactical services. The biggest of the company's 30 airline shareholders is British Airways.

Bailbrook House specializes in teaching air traffic control to students from overseas. In residence are young men and women from 10 foreign countries. Most of them begin with a basic course in English, the international language of air traffic control.

The centre-piece of the training activities is a digital computer, installed at a cost of £250,000, which holds details of the performance of 96 aircraft types. These can be transferred to radar screens

The concentrated atmosphere of an air traffic control centre is reproduced with great authenticity. Using the computer, instructors can increase the work load on each pupil until he or she approaches breaking point.

Emergencies, such as aircraft on converging courses, engine failures and hijackings, are introduced and the responses of the trainees monitored closely. So great can the pressure become that there has been one case of a minor heart attack.

All actions and responses of the students are recorded and played back to them

Instructors are able, as opposed to actual air traffic control, to freeze the action on the radar screen to point out where the students have made incorrect decisions. That ability could help to avoid a future aviation disaster when the pupils become controllers in air traffic centres all over the world.

Severed finger found and sewn back on

From Our Correspondent
Newport, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight police received a telephone call yesterday from a prison officer thanking them for finding his missing finger.

Mr Eddie Walder, aged 35, a physical training instructor at Albany jail, was leaping over a barrier at Parkhurst prison officers' club on Saturday when he severed the top half of his right middle finger.

He was taken to hospital and after a call to the police two officers went to the accident scene and found the finger. It was taken to the hospital and sewn back on.

Tree from Norway

London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree, an annual gift from Norway, was delivered yesterday. The 65ft spruce was shipped from Oslo to Felixstowe.

Drugged husband killed by woman's lover, QC says

From Our Correspondent
St Albans

After a woman had drugged her husband into unconsciousness with sleeping tablets her lover beat him to death with a garden spade, the prosecution alleged at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday.

In darkness the two drove his body to a motorway bridge and threw it over into the fast lane below, Mr Anthony McCowan, QC, for the Crown, added. Before doing that they dressed the body in woman's underwear to make it look as though the husband was a transvestite who had committed suicide.

Margaret Chapman, aged 32, of Jackmans Estate, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and Peter West, aged 39, of Ivel Court, Jackmans Estate, both pleaded not guilty to murdering Frederick Chapman, aged 33, last February.

Mr McCowan said that Mrs Chapman, mother of two children, and Mr West had been secret lovers for six months before the killing. The husband was a hardworking man.

Counsel said that a month before the murder Mrs Chapman alleged to various people that he husband was a transvestite who dressed up in women's clothing, and that she found it repulsive. She showed them some women's clothing in the matrimonial bedroom which she said belonged to her husband.

The jury were told that the body was not run over and a lorry driver noticed it and called the police.

Mr McCowan said that at first the death appeared to be a straightforward suicide, but the police found blood on the bridge pavement and hand rail, which suggested he was already bleeding when he went over.

The trial continues today.

Thomas Crapper fails to win a plaque

By Our Local Government Correspondent

A suggestion that a blue plaque should be erected to commemorate a former home of the Victorian sanitary engineer, Thomas Crapper, after earnest consideration has been rejected by the historic buildings committee of the Greater London Council.

The committee decided that "memorable though Crapper's name might be in popular terms," evidence from the Patents Office showed that he was not a notable inventor or pioneer in his field.

Two other eminent men are more likely to be commemorated. The committee has supported the suggestion of plaques for Sir Edmund Gosse (1845-1928), literary historian, poet and critic, and Sir John Tomes (1815-1895), one of the founders of dentistry. If finally approved, it will be the first plaque dedicated to a dentist in London.

Store cleaner fined £600

Mrs Blanca Bedoya, aged 29, a stores cleaner, who was said to have taken out of Debenham's Oxford Street, nearly £3,000 of clothing over 20 months, was fined £600 at Marlborough Street Magistrates Court, London, yesterday.

Mrs Bedoya, of Endymion Road, Finsbury Park, London, had admitted 139 offences of theft from the store.

WEST EUROPE

London prepares for battle with Bonn over BAOR costs

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Britain, already confronting its allies over EEC budget contributions is preparing or af clash over the costs of stationing troops in West Germany.

The Ministry of Deence, with Cabinet approval, is drawing up a list of priposals to be put to the Bonn Government early in the new year.

Payments by which West Germany helps to ofset thef foreign exchagne costs to Britain of keeping troops overseas, have long been a source of riction betfween the two allies.

Btu this time ministers are bracing themselves for a battle of wills which promises to b the most heated so far. The trouble is that Mr Callaghan's Government, ater long fand diicufflt negotiations over the last osffet agreement in 1977, signed away the right ofr Britain to go back for any more.

Mrs Tharcher's Government is insisting, however, that negotiations will have to be reopened over the mounting burden on Britain's fragile economy. It wants a better deal than the last one, which expires in March.

There are already sign of friction between the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office which conducts the negotiations. Diplomats are reluctant to take up the cudgels again over an issue which they thought had been settled.

The Ministry of Defence blames the Foreign Office and the previous Government for concluding the present agreement which was largely felt to be a triumph for the West Germans.

In 1977 when the agreement was signed, the foreign exchange costs of maintaining 55,000 troops in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) and 10,000 more in RAF Germany, were running at an aannal £569m. To offset this the West Germans finally agreed to pay only £125m over a period of three years—about £41m a year.

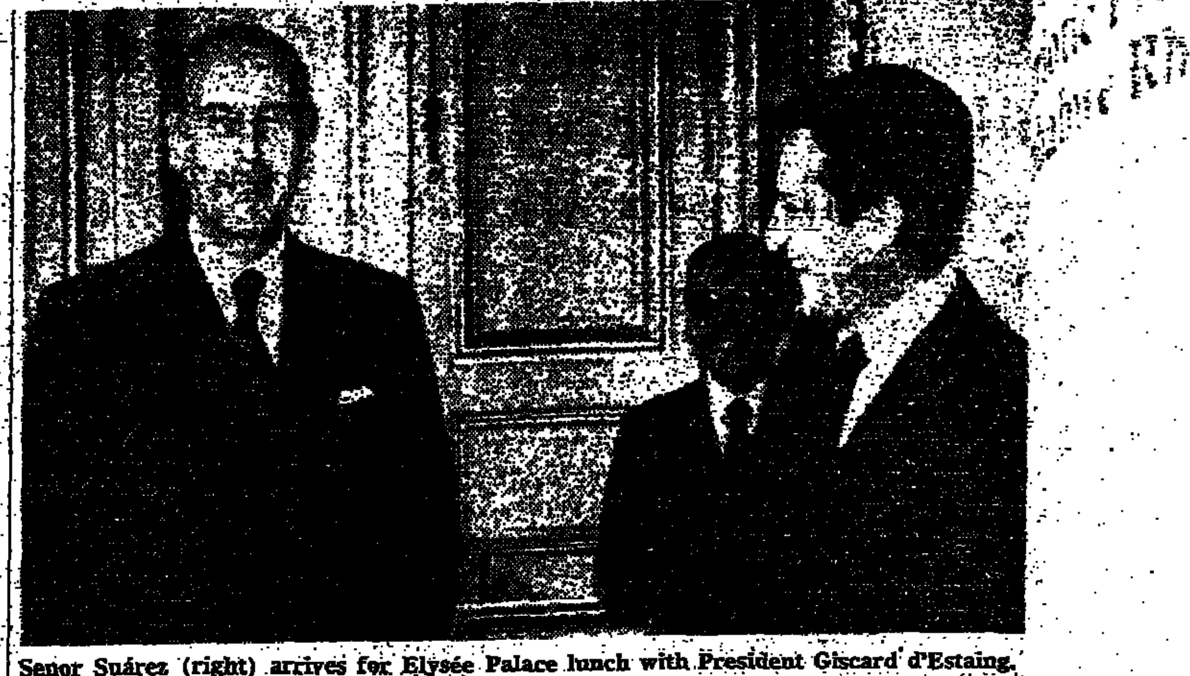
But this was not to be paid in cash. The Bonn Government insisted instead carrying out £125m worth of building for British troops, whose barracks have long been in need of modernizatin.

This not only meant work for the German Construction Agency, but also that the German money would be invested in real estate on home soil. Together with the written agreement that it was to be the last offset payments deal, it was a very satisfactory bargain from the West German point of view.

As Britain has to pay about £100m every year on construction alone for its troops stationed there, the deal has meant, howver, that the Germans have met only 40 per cent of that single bill. Moreover the foreign exchange costs have risen to an estimated £666m in 1979-80.

The proposals being prepared by the Ministry of Defence willb e put to the West German Government once the dust has settled after the EEC budget confrontation.

One idea is that the Germafs should be asked to sign an agreement similar to, but better than, the existing one. Another is that the y should pay the wages of the 25,000 German workejs employed by British Forces Germany. A third is that they should buy more British military equipment. At present they do far more business with the United States and France.



Senor Suárez (right) arrives for Elysée Palace lunch with President Giscard d'Estaing.

Suárez visit aims to sway France

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 26

Senor Adolfo Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister, arrived in Paris today for a two-day official visit during which his chief aim will be to win French support orf early entry o his country into the European Community.

Senor Suarez's group, which includes the Ministers for Foreign Afairs,f Laboru, Agriclulture, Commerce and EEC Relations, reveals the subjects which will dominate the talks.

The visit began with a lunch meeting today with President Giscard d'Estaing followed by private talks during the aternoon wfith M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister. These talks are to continue tomorrow, with other ministers taking part.

On the question o Sfpanish entry to the Community, France, through the President, has long said it has been in avour.f At the same time, the Communist and Gaullist parties in the country have strong reservations and the farming community, particularly in the south-west, is extremely worried about what it will mean to French agriculture.

Senor Suarez was due to make his visit nearly a year ago, having accepted an invitatiin madd bx the French President during his official visit to Spain in June, 197.., to take part in a bi-annual meeting.

Given the fact that France has more reason than any other Community member to oppose Spanish entry, it is certain that Senor Suarez has approached this visit with some misgiving.

Other issues besides entry to the Community have also clouded Franco-Spanish relationships in recent months. They include the Basque question and fishing rights.

At the start of this year Spain began a press campaign attacking France for not extraditing Basque nationalists of the ETZ organization. The campaign pointed out that ETA were terrorists who c not qualify for political asyl because they were attacking democratic government.

T he French Governme was taken aback by the tone, the press attacks and point out that it already h accepted the Spanish point view. Several French firms Spain did, in fact, suffer fr ETA attacks as a result of this

Another problem likely to discussed during the prese visit is the Western sha Senor Suarez recently met t leaders of the Polisario gu rilla organization in Algi where he told them he reco nized them as the true spok men of the Saharan people. the same time, pain believ the question must be resolv by a referendum.

Spanish entry into the EI will nevertheless dominate the discussions, with France sisting that Spanish agricultu will have to be subject to long period of ontegrati after entry.

Three groups dominate Portuguese poll

From José Shercliff
Lisbon, Nov 26

Only three of the 11 parties in Portugal's election this Sunday will be able to form parliamentary groups in the next Assembly, according to political observers here. The parties are the numerically superior Socialists, the Democratic Alliance (a grouping of the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and Monarchist party) and the United People's Alliance (APU), a minor but vigorous group of left-wing parties.

Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, led a spectacular march of thousands of supporters in Lisbon at the weekend, but may have lost the confidence of some Socialist supporters for accepting support from the Christian Democratic Party on certain unpopular measures while in power

The Communist Party has little hope of a parliamentary majority, but it is calculated that votes for it will increase.

Man's book wins women's vote

Paris, Nov 26—The all women jury for the French Femina literary prize have this year chosen to give the award to a man, M Pierre Moinot, for his novel, Le Guetteur d'Ombre

The Medici prize, which is awarded to a book experimenting in a new style, has been awarded to M Claude Durand for his novel La Nuit Zoologique.

Non-stop show is still waiting for permission to start

French rules snarl up the circus

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, November 26

On a grassy space on the edge of the forest of Vincennes, in the south-east corner of Paris, passers-by can see 19 elephants, two camels, 80 horses and a fine collection of lions and tigers. They are safe and warm in heated cages, although somewhat short of their usual exercise which they get performing in a circus.

The animals are part of the giant American circus, which is actually an Italian circus run on American lines. They were due to be one of the main attractions at a much publicized spectacle which was due to open this weekend.

For the moment, however, there seems little hope of the show going on, for the circus has run foul of French regulations and, it is muttered darkly, is the victim of a form of French protectionism familiar to British lamb exporters.

The American Circus is one of the biggest and most modern in the world, with 300 performers and a non-stop show of the kind that is calculated to leave the audience gasping from start to finish. It is a far bigger thing than any of its French counterparts.

The French circus has in recent years been going through hard times and it is only this summer that it has been starting once again to make a go of it with comparatively small, one-ring circuses touring the country. News of the arrival of the American Circus to occupy a plum site on the fringe of Paris for the lucrative Christmas period filled the small French circuses with dread.

In August of last year their plight had caught the attention of President Giscard d'Estaing, who ordered M Jean Lecat, his Minister of Culture and Communications, to see what he could do to help them. It was as a result of his help that the circus in France had begun to make a comeback.

Now once more M Lecat has come to their aid. His ministry has told the American Circus that since it does not have the appropriate licence for staging its show it will not be allowed to put up its tents. The news of this ban arrived last week at about the same time as the circus reached the goods station of Bercy from Turin. The animals were initially not allowed off the train.

Then, last Thursday, one of the circus elephants stuck on the train died of a diabetic crisis, according to the French Society for the Protection of Animals. Arrangements were immediately made to move the other animals to their heated cages on the site they had reserved.

M Jean Richard, a spokesman for the biggest circus in France, said: "In this holiday period it would have been disastrous for the French circus to have to face up to such competition."

The American Circus, which obtained permission from the city of Paris in September to use its site, has been trying since June to get the necessary licence to appear. According to Mme Rolande Bismuth, managing director of the company which brought the circus to Paris, the refusal of the minister to grant the necessary licence is due "to the influence of M Jean Richard, who has succeeded in transforming this affair of the circus into an affair of state. What does that make of the law of competition, especially at the heart of the Common Market?"

Mme Bismuth said she was prepared to take the matter all the way to the State Council if necessary, but that if the circus could not open she would have to file a petition for bankruptcy.

M Lecat has reaffirmed that that he could not allow the circus to open because it did not have the appropriate licence. "It is not in the name of some sort of protectionism for French circuses that we have refused the licence," he said. "It is because the company cannot give guarantees of safety required for all public spectacles."

However, according to the American Circus, its equipment, including that for crowd safety, is among the most modern in the world.

Air controllers t continue ban on France flight

From Our Own Corresponde
Paris, Nov 26

French air traffic controlle voted again today to contin their industrial action whi has led to most daytime flig in and out of France being c celled over the past th weeks.

They will continue the p tern of banning flights long periods followed by sh periods on alternate days ur next Monday.

Preliminary talks with air traffic authorities bro down last week on the mo claim for higher pay and m ning levels, and no furth negotiations are planned.

At the same time authorities have started to crease the number of c cplinary lay-offs of controlle

Each of the regio centres decide on these lay-o themselves, but so far mo than 150 controllers have be laid off for up to th months. An eight-day lay- represents a financial loss between 710 and 1,530 fra (£79 to £170) according grade.

Several small regional companies have lodged claim for damages against t trade union organizing the dustrial action.

Snail-eater dies

Nancy, France, Nov 26.—Marc Quinquandon, the wo snail-eating champion, died indigestion in hospital yest day after eating 72 snails three minutes.

'150,000 shepherds' voice their anger with Britain

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 26

In a full-page adviriseement in Le Monde today "150,000 furious shepherds" explain why they do not want to become the "foundlings" of Europe. The advertisement is a long, reasoned attack in general and the British sheep producers in particular.

The 44,000 francs (£4,888) needed to buy a full page in the paper was paid by the Sheep Rearing Organization of the West Central area of France, which is the main pasture area for sheep.

"England has decided to conquer the French sheep market for the greatest benefit of its commercial firms and New Zealand sheep farmers", the article says.

"Whether it involves sheep, milk, sea fishing, the Community budget or oil policies, the British attitude remains the same: make the most out of Europe and reject its restrictions."

The sheep affair, the advertisement says, shows Britain is seekin gto transform the spirit of the European ideal. If the sheep case were to be won it would set a precedent for all other industries.

Britain is accused of keeping th eprice of its sheepmeat to only two thirds ofthe French price by using a subsidy system.

The advertisement said that: At Dublin the heads of state could not cross out with a stroke of the pen the riches of a nation. "Men, regions, flocks wait to know what will be done with them. It would beunthinkable if it were agreed that they should be sacrificed."

Bokassa move to annul property sale

Paris, Nov 26.—Former Emperor Jean Bédel Bokassa of Central Africa has started lawsuits in Paris and the Ivory Coast, where he is living in exile, seeking to annul his sale of three French properties to M Bernard Tapie, aged 36, a French businessman.

M Tapie announced he had bought the three properties for 12m francs (£1.3m) and would auction them, the proceeds to go to Unicef, the United Nations childrens' fund. The deal was concluded before an Abidjan notary on October 9. M Bokassa had been overthrown on September 20, while out of his country, and arrived in Abidjan on September 24.

He claims in his law-suite that he agreed to the sale under moral duress, and also that the agreement is void because under French law no one may buy assets at less than seven-twelfths of their value.

M Tapie has said in an interview that he persuaded M Bokassa to sell the properties by telling him his holdings were about to be nationalized. He said he did not believe this constitured sale under duress.—AP.

'Armenian Army' bombs Madrid airline offices

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Nov 26

The offices of three airlines in Madrid's main street were damaged in an overnight bombing attack which an anonymous telephone caller attributed here today to "the Secret Army for Armenian Liberation".

Only one person was injured in the series of explosions in José Antonio Avenue, two of which went off just before midnight. A third bomb exploded at about 1.30 am today. They were placed in front of the offices of Sabena, TWA and British Airways.

Shortly before noon a fourth bomb was found in a telephone booth outside the Alitalia office on the Plaza de España, at one end of José Antonio Avenue and a bomb disposal squad defused it.

The injured man was a bus driver who happened to be passing by when one of the charges exploded. His injuries were described as not serious. A policeman was knocked down by the blast, but was not hurt.

The fact that the explosions took place at night undoubtedly reduced the potential number of casualties.

Before the Alitalia bomb was found, an unknown man telephoned the Madrid bureau of Reuters, saying that an organization which he called "the Secret Army for Armenian Liberation" had placed the bombs at the offices of international airlines serving Turkey, as a warning that Pope should not go through with his planned visit to that country.

A similar attack was made on airline offices in Paris last week for which the Armenian group also claimed responsibility.

French spread 'appellation contrôlée' rights to butter

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 26

Classic French wines are legally protected by a label which bears the proud initials AOC (appellation d'origine contrôlée), a much prized category which shields the vintner from the risk of inferior winegrowers taking his name in vain.

Now the same rights are to be granted to dairy farmers in the Charentes-Poitou region. By official decree they are to be allowed to call their butter AOC. The decree appeared in the Journal Officiel on August 31 and the first churnfuls of AOC butter will soon be on sale.

Ten per cent of French dairy butter is produced in the region, which boasts that it makes the best in France. The aim of going to the trouble and expense of getting an official decree to protect their produce is twofold: first to steal a march on the dairymen of Normandy, who claim they produce the best butter; and second, to stop the practice of large food chains buying up small amounts in the region, mixing it with an inferior type, and then selling it as Charent Poitou butter.

Professional tasters claim be able to tell the butter of t east from the butters with more developed "bouque from Normandy. In the Charentes-Poitou they claim th butter has "body" and a f flavour.

The dairy farmers doubtl got their idea from the f that their land is next to t Cognac and Bordeaux regio which are the biggest in Frar and the world to be gran appellation contrôlée rights their wines.

Three AOC labels will available: Beurre des De Sèvres, Beurre des Charen and Beurre Charentes-Poit To qualify the producer will only have to collect all milk from five departments a cantons in the area near by, b will have to have the butt made in a factory in one of t four departments at the he of the dairy country.

Prices are expected to r when the new labels go on the producers claim that t move will ensure that t quality is not only maintain but improved.

WHO grapples with world drink problem

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Nov 26

The World Health Organization today launched its campaign against excessive drinking, which is a big and fast-growing public health problem almost universally, according to the WHO Assembly.

In many developing countries it is a serious obstacle to progress and a severe burden on health services. With rapid change, even Islamic countries are not immune.

In compliance with an Assembly resolution, specialists from nine countries—including Britain, the Soviet Union, United States and India—and from an array of organizations combating alcoholism have been meeting here for seven days.

The outcome of their discussions, as outlined in a careful statement today from the chairman, Professor Robert Kendell, professor of psychiatry at Edinburgh University, is that governments must take the responsibility of forcing down consumption. Legislative measures, such as greatly increased taxes, must be accompanied by vigorous measures to educate people to the risk.

In most countries the real level of excise tax had fallen as a result of inflation. Asked whether WHO intends to urge governments to restrict advertising, Professor Kendell pointed out that the total absence advertising in Russia and Ea ern Europe had not lessen the alcoholism problem the

Historically the wine-growi countries had a much hig per capita intake than tho where beer or spirits w customarily consumed, b drinking habits world-wide we becoming more similar, becau of imports.

Still worst in consumpti levels were Chile, Argenti France, Portugal and Ita

Some countries say 50 p cent of crime is alcohol-relat Internationally 30 to 50 p cent of traffic accidents attributed to alcohol or oth drugs.

RSEAS

Ian Smith says he would work h Patriotic Front if it 1 Zimbabwe Rhodesia elections

holas Ashford
Nov 26

Smith, Minister with-olio and leader of Rhodesia's 230,000 id here today that he prepared to work Patriotic Front if the organization won the which are due to be y next year.
Patriotic Front is the nt then we will work I", he told a group of s. "It is no use living st—the past is gone. iotic Front is coming her we like it or not. nothing I can do to I am a realist. They g in."
th denied that he said was atending the Lanlouse conference in at the Patriotic Front asily win" an election er British and Comh supervision. "I id that the could win, I that at a time when ish Government was the detriment of the lishop Abel Muzorewa, ne Minister's United National Council) and advantage of the Front."
nith grudgingly conhat the white comhaving finally agreed over power to the black majority, should try to make the best of the situation. "I believe that with Rhodesians' ability to overcome problems, to adapt themselves and with their courage there is hope we can make something worthwhile of this situation which we are in—one which we did not want."

The former Prime Minister, who led the country into making its unilateral declaration of independence 14 years ago, said he did not expect new elections to be held until March and possibly even later.

The Patriotic Front, he went on, had constantly dragged out the negotiations and in so doing had gained better terms for themselves. They had succeeded in taking the British Government for "quite a ride".

Mr Smith added that he would like to see the establishment of another government of national unity after next year's elections. He did not say which black party the Rhodesian Front would be prepared to support but conceded that it would probably be the UANC.

He was asked if he was afraid the Patriotic Front would put him on trial if the guerrilla organization came to power. He replied that he was not afraid as he had confidence in the independence of the country's judicial system. He added that he regretted a recent remark by Mr Just ceiHector Macdonald, the Chief Justice, that he would resign if the Patriotic Front formed a future government.

Meanwhile, Bishop Muzorewa, continuing to make the maximum amount of political mileage out of his position as head of the Government before he has to hand over power to a British governor, said in a broadcast tonight that the constitution agreed on in London was the best Britain had ever granted to any of her former colonies.

The constitution, he added, gave adequate power to a black government to implement its election pledges without hindrance by a minority parliamentary opposition while at the same time protectin gthe rights of minorities against the "whims of ruthless and wanton dictators".

In a broadcast that was long on rhetoric and short on content, he criticized both Mr Smith and the Patriotic Front. He ended by telling viewers and listeners that the choice before them at next year's election was between democracy, true freedom, independence and liberty on one hand, and slavery, subjugation, Tyranny and turmoil through a one-party Marxist state on the other.

ith Africa s Britain tand firm

y Kennedy
burg, Nov 26

F. Botha, the South Foreign Minister, will rd Carrington, the Secretary, later this it it is Pretoria's view British Government move fast and stand n the Zimbabwe Rhosue.

tha will be arriving in from Bonn where he t see Herr Genescher, est German Foreign , and discuss Namibian nents at a meeting ith South African ams in Europe.

hed sources in Pretoria lay that the Bonn visit n set up for some time t talks with Lord Carhad been hastily arranr it became known that reign Secretary would able for consultations.

otha will tell Lord Carthat Pretoria expects a governor to be swiftly d in Salisbury and that hould be an immediate of sanctions.

South African Governs stood clear of the Lanlouse talks, although its ed diplomatic represenn Salisbury was flown lon at the beginning of ference.

Africa has frequently in the last few months cannot be expected to otally neutral attitude if we Rhodesia is taken rcibly by groups hostile obviously the Patriotic

Botha's intervention in idon negotiations at this lthough indirect, appears care South Africa's ing concern at the way are moving at Lancaster

White farmers 'could give up quarter of their land'

From Our Own Correspondent
Salisbury, Nov 26

One quarter of the land owned by Zimbabwe Rhodesias 6,000 predominantly white commercial farmers could be made available immediately for resettlement by Africans, Mr Denis Norman, president of the commercial farmers Union said here today.

However, he gave a warning that any transfer of land from white to black ownership should be done only for productive and not political reasons.

Mr Norman was addressing a press conference to restate the position of the white farming community on the key question of land ownership.

He said the union was in favour of a significant resettlement programe for prospective black farmers, but that this should be carried out on a carefully planned basis.

"and", he said, "is the most important issue in this country. If it is tackled properly then Zimbabwe Rhodesia could become the envy not only of the rest of frica but the world. If it is not then there will be chaos and disaster.'

To underline the importance of the land question Mr Norman pointed out that the efficiency of the Agricultural sector not only meant Zimbabwe Rhodesia was self-sufficient in foodstuffs, but that food exports accounted for half the country's foreign exchange earnings.

The main thrust of Mr Norman's case was that the present commercial farming sector (i.e. the white farmers) should be left more or less untouched except where land was needed for planned agricultural development or resettlement schemes. In cases where land had to be expropriated, fair and adequate compensation should be paid.

Mr Norman said there was a limit to the amount of land available for resettlement but denied that there was any "land hunger" among the nation's seven million Africans.

He rejected the argument that all the 675,000 African families living in the tribal areas wanted more land so as to be able to farm more effectively.

He estimated that only 10 to 15 per cent of the African cultivators would want to become commercial farmers.

Mr Norman mentioned three schemes which were already under way, in what were former white areas, to encourage Africans to become commercial farmers.

One, in Chisumbanje, in the south-east of the country would initially provide five-acre irrigated plots for 200 farmers, althoug a possible 90,000 acres could eventually be used for resettlement in this area.

A second scheme, at middle Sabi, would initially provide feedstock for an ethanol plant.

He said the main constraints preventing the acceleration of such schemes were the war and shortage of funds

Mr Norman also called for a big program to redevelop the tribal trust lands, which make up 42.5 per cent o fthe total land area of Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

He felt that any black government that took over after the forthcoming pre-independence elections would have to maintain the concept of tribal trust lands for at least four or five years, even though black nationalist leaders have rejected the present land classification system.

This scheme crowds the blacks into over-populated and often infertile tribal reserves while the whites control most of the best farming areas.

Mr Norman totally rejected the nationalization of all farming land as is being advocated by Mr Robert Mugabe's wing of the Patriotic Front.

A glider caught in telephone and power lines at Reading, Pennsylvania. The woman pilot ended up there after missing the runway at an airport near by. She was rescued unhurt by firemen.

Rebels give in to tear gas attack

From Our Correspondent
Jiddah, Nov 26

The remainder of the 300 armed tribesmen who attacked and occupied the Great Mosque in Mecca last Tuesday were giving themselves up today as tear gas forced them out of the cellars and tunnels beneath the mosque.

As they emerged, many spat on the Saudi troops to whom they were surrendering, cursing the mas unbelievers. Again no official statement that the entire group is under arrest has been issued and it is not yet clear whether Muhammad Abdullah Al-Qahtani, aged 26, who claimed to be the Mahdi has been captured. He was not arrested yesterday.

It now seems apparent that although most of the attackers belonged to the three tribal groupings of Oteiba, Harb and Qahrani, the motives for the assault came from student radicalism rather than tribal discontent. Muhammad Qahtani was a fourth year drop-ou tfrom the Faculty of Sharia in Mecca. The core of his followers are thought to have been students.

There were rumblings of student activity in Jiddah and Mecca earlier this year after events in Iran.

Horrified by the blasphemy, Saudi newspapers have been calling for the punishments laid down in the Koran for hereey and for defiling the mosque.

They range from banishment to beheading, crucifixion, and the amputation of one or all limbs.

Israel 'seeking deal to avoid exiling mayor'

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Nov 26

Unconirmfed reports that the Israeli Government is attempting to reach a secret compromise which would avert the deportation of Mr Bassam Shaka, the Arab maaor of Nablus, were encouraged today by the sudden postponement o his afppeal beore a three-mafn military committee.

Although little is being said by oiffcial sources, it is understood that the Israeli defence establishment is prepared to consider suggestions which could calm unrest in the occupied territories. This continued today with more stoning o vehiclefs and a commercial strike in East Jerusalem.

A number of suggestions have been put forward by prominent West Bank figures anxious to prevent Mr Shaka's exile, but none has yet been accepted by the Government.

Mr Shaka is on hunger strike inside Ramle jail near Tel Aviv. It is reported that he is personally opposed to any deal which would link his case to that o fright-wing Jewish settlers at Elon Moreh or which would involve anything less than his full reinstatement as mayor of Nablus.

A number o legal avenufes remain open before the deportation order takes efect, fwith the appeals tribunal likely to sit later this week. But diplomats belive that having made it known that it considers Mr Shaka a serious threat to national security, the Israeli Government has let fitself with little room for manoeuvre.

As well as provoking sharp criticism from America, the decision to expel Mr Shaka has united moderate and extreme leaders on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip in a way not seen before.

A total o 25 mafyors have handed in their resignations and many problems will be posed ofr the administration i these fare not withdrawn. I the mayor is banished the Palestinian autonomy negotiations with Egypt will also be threatened.

Strike called off: The Histadrut trade union federation has called off tomorrow's general strike in protest against the Government's anti-inflation measures after an extraordinary backlash by wage earners opposing a work stoppage (Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv).

Dozens of works committees hn factoreep and public services announced they would boycott the one-day strike. They denounced it as a political move by the Labour Alignment which dominates the Histadrut to undermine the Likud Government.

Agreement to cancel the strike was announced in the National Labour Court which had started hearing a suit by employes' organizations invoking a "no strike" clause in collective wage agreements. Histadrut sources said they agreed to the move in order to forestall a court ruling that might set a legal precedent in labour felaions.

Secret drug tests on Americans

Philadelphia, Nov 26.—The United States Army spent more than £35m on a secret, 25-year programme using human subjects, including prison inmates, to test drugs intended for chemical warfare, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The newspaper said a $386,486 contract with the University of Pennsylvania for experiments on 320 prisoners during the last 10 years was the largest of its kind. The use of inmates at Holmesburg Prison here from 1964 to 1968 was intended to determine the dosage of various drugs needed to mentally disable half a given population.

The newspapers used information from 1,800 pages of army documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Captain Bob Bowen, of the Marines, who was duty officer at the Defence Department, said: "We have not seen the story and we would not comment until we did and until we had a chance to check into the matter". University officials were unavailable for comment.

Tests were carried out on more than 7,000 military volunteers at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, and on 1,074 people under contracts with civilian institutions, according to a 1975 army Inspector General's report quoted by the paper. The report stated that testing on humans was suspended that year.

In the tests at Bolmesburg, the leading research workers, Dr Albert Kligman and Dr Herbert Copelan, said they had compiled a "perfect safety record" the newspaper said. But they also reported that some prisoners suffered unusually severe reactions.

Most of those tested were youpng adults, about two-thirds being black. Inmates who volunteered were e ach paid $12 for medīual screening and up to $25 in injection fees and incentive pay for each set of experimets, the documents stated.—AP.

Sihanouk appeal branded as 'treason'

Bangkok, Nov 26.—The Hanoi-supported administration in Phnom Penh todayaccused Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Kampuchean leader, of being a traitor to his country and the servant of China and the West.

The Kampuchean news agency SPK quoted a Phnom Penh radio commentary as saying that it was "on the orders of his patrons that Sihanouk is now undertaking a tour of Europe, Japan, Australia and the United States to demand these countries intervene in Kampuchean affairs in the hope of reversing the situation.

"More and more Sihanouk is exposing in an odious fashion his role as the servant of the expansionist and hegemonistic Chinese and the imperialists."

Khmer Rouge guerrillas are still holding out, mostly in western Kampuchea, and nationlist Khmer Serei (free Khmer) guerrilla groups, some liyal to Prince Sihanouk, are also present in the west.

The Khmer Rouge radio today broadcast a statement calling on the United Nations to distribute international relief supplies to Kampucheans. It accused Vietnamese troops of appropriating the aid which is handed ov4r to the Phnom Penh administration, and either using it themselves or sending it to Vetnam. N aid was reaching the people for whom it was intended, the broadcast said.—Reuter.

Force threatened: The Thai Army would soon use a measure of force against Kampucheans refusing to move away from the Thai-Kampuchean border near Arany!prathet, 165 miles east of Bangkok, military officers warned intdrnational aid officials today (Neil Kelly writes from Bangkok).

They said the troops would mve through the camps which house teee of thousands of anti-communist Kampucheans il an attempt to h!sten the evacuation.

The officers said the situation on the border was "chaotic and very dangerous" with new arrivals outnumbering those moving to a new refugee camp inside Thail!nd. some 24,000 Kampucheans have crossed the border to the new camp at Khao I Dang since Wednesday.

Officials of the United Nations High Commission for Refugdds had hoped to movd up to 10,000 refugeee ! day. Onlx 0,000 werd movdd tod!x because of continuing resistance by the Kampucheans' leaders who are insisting that only children, the sick and the aged should be moved. They said they would lose their authority and credibility as anti-Vietnamese resistance righters if too many of their suporters retreated into Thailand.

Another aid official said the Thai Army had sggestdd it would cut off food to refugdes refusing to leave the border. The official added that the Kampuchean leadership and their armed guerrillas numbering about 5,000 were seizing some food to keep it from those trying to leave the border.

Japanese Premier reassures Asean

From Our Correspondent
Tokyo, Nov 26

The non-communist countries of South-East Asia remain a priority area in Japan's foreign relations unaffected by the large Japanese aid offer to China, Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, said today.

Mr Ohira made the assurance at the ministerial conference of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Tokyo. He was apparently trying to dispel the reported apprehension by Asean countries that the recent Japanese decision to accede to China's multi-million dollar aid request for modernization might undermine the Japanese-Asean economic relationship.

A main Asean concern is that the Japanese economic assistance to China would evenrually expose the area to more competitive Chinese products.

Opinion is also divided in Japan. Even in the Foreign Ministry there is criticism of the "massive commitment" of financial aid to China which would "disrupt and dislocate" the balanced supply of aid and "alarm" other countries. Japanese aid is to go to six Chinese projects now estimated at $3,500m (£1,166m).

Japan is expected to finalize the aid programme and a decision to offer preferential import tariffs to Chinese products from next April when Mr Ohira visits Peking on December 5.

While Mr Ohira has reaffirmed today the official Japanese policy of a priority relationship with Asean, the position of the region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) in overall Japanese trade is still small. Japan accounts for approximately a quarter of Asian's external trade, but Japanese exports to the region account for only 9 per cent and its imports 12.5 per cent of total Japanese trade.

In the fields of investment and economic cooperation, however, Asean commands a large share of Japanese resources. The balance of Japanese investment has grown 3.8 times between 1951 and 1978—from $1,400m to $5,300m, accounting for 21 per cent of the total.

Of the $2,350m in aid (excluding reparations) which Japan has offered between 1960 and 1977, the Asean region received 39 per cent, which compares with the 29 per cent from the United States and the 21 per cent from the EEC.

Japan also promised $1,000m aid to the region when Mr Takeo Fukuda, the former Prime Minister, visited the area in 1978.—Reuter.

Amnesty asks if Indonesia will keep word

By David Watts

Amnesty International has asked the Indonesian Government to confirm that it will meet its commitment to release all remaining untried political prisoners by the end of this year. The organization said in a press release yesterday that it was reacting to reports that the Indonesians were planning to continue holding up to 1,500 prisoners, some of whom have been in jail up to 14 years without trial.

The reports have indicated that some "uncooperative" prisoners, previously held on thenotorious island of Buru, would not be given their freedom by the end of the year. Among them were some of the country's most famous political prisoners, including Pramudya Ananta Tur, one of its leading novelists

In telegrams to President Suharto and Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Foreign Minister, the human rights organization referred to promises made during the Indonesian state visit to Britain earlier this month.

International support for Polish 'flying university'

By Our Foreign Staff

A new international committee has been formed to support the so-called "Flying University" of Poland. So far it has signatures from about 65 distinguished writers and academics in Western Europe, the United States and Canada.

The Flying University is one of the most interesting and significant manifestations of unofficial activity in Poland. It organizes lectures, mostly in private flats, on aspects of Polish history and culture which are either distorted or not mentioned at all by the official educational system.

Poland's bloody relations with Russia and the early history of the communist movement, are obviously sensitive subjects, but the syllabus for the 1979-80 academic year does not mention them directly. Among the promised seminars are "Polish-Jewish relations since 1918", "Contemporary history of the Catholic Church", "The rural question and the peasant movement in twentieth-century Poland", and "Axiological foundations of politics".

Properly known as the Society for Academic Courses, the Flying University issued its first declaration on January 22, 1978. Well over 5,000 people have taken part in its courses, and Polish supporters have included 19 full professors and six members of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Harassment by the police has increased and has occasionally been extremely brutal. As a result, fewer lectures will now be publicized and open to all comers, and more use may be made of tapes

The new international support committee says in a statement that "to sustain and to expand this movement—basic for genuine cultural life—the support and solidarity of scholarly circles all over the world is essential".

Among the supporters of the committee are A. J. Ayer, Heinrich Böll, Iris Murdoch, Frank Kermode, Cesare Luporini, Mary McCarthy, Gunnar Myrdal, Peter Wiles, Robert Conquest, Michael Dummett, Leszek Kolakowski, Wlodzimierz Brus and Alexander Cairncross.

Indian Communists facing a new split

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, Nov 26

The pro-Soviet Communist Party of India faces a split with the resignation of Mr S. A. Dange, the party chairman, from his position and from the central executive committee.

Mr Dange represents a party group supporting Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, and has supported her even after the party denounced her because of her role during the emergency in 1975-77.

A few days ago Mr Dange was censured because he had sent a telegram to congratulate Mr H. N. Bahuguna, the Finance Minister in the caretaker Government who was Minister for Petroleum in the Janata Government, for having switched over to Mrs Gandhi.

The Communist Party of India, which has a poll alliance with the ruling Lok Dal Party, has continued to oppose Mrs Gandhi in an attempt to unite anti-authoritarian forces in her party and anti-communal forces in the Janata.

Mr Dange has wide support in Bihar, Orissa and Maharashtra. The West Bengal party is his main critic and called on Saturday for his expulsion from the party for having expressed support for Mrs Gandhi. The fact that Mr Dange was let off lightly shows that the party did not want to precepitate matters.

Mr Dange's resignation will now force the party to face the fact of the cleavage within it which is likely to result in a split. More than a decade ago, the Communist Party split into the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Mr Dange is known to be very close to Moscow. Many people in India will believe that the Soviet Union, which jettisoned Mrs Gandhi after the defeat in the 1977 election, has changed its line.

OVERSEAS

Detergent shortage hits Soviet homes

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Nov 26

Russians are facing a domestic crisis: the country has virtually run out of detergent and household soap. In some towns there is none to be had at all. In Moscow and other cities the supplies are so erratic that huge queues build up the moment it is rumoured that there has been a fresh delivery. On buses and in canteens anxious housewives are discussing what to do and how to wash the shirts.

It has been officially admitted that the country is facing a severe shortage. The ministries responsible for the production of soap powder report that this year output is 17 per cent below target. In the first quarter of the year factories were short of 3,400 tons of the raw materials needed to make detergents. People have taken to washing clothes with grated household soap and now there is a shortage of both.

The Soviet press is full of stories about shops being besieged by angry customers, trading enterprises vainly trying to wheedle new deliveries out of the factories, and factory managers frustrated by the lack of supplies.

The culprit is a factory in Sumgait in Azerbaijan that produces sulfanol, an essential ingredient of detergent powder.

The factory has been in chaos for some months, and on October 24 it closed down altogether. It has failed to deliver 24,000 tons of the precious substance, leading to a shortage of 100,000 tons of detergent.

Another coincidental problem is the lack of boxes to put the powder in. The Ministry of Cellulose and Paper Industry is short of 4,000 tons of cardboard to make the packets and another 6,000 tons of cardboard for packing cases.

The soap shortage has been aggravated by hoarding. Whereas last October Muscovites bought on average 80 tons of soap powder a day, they are now buying 158 tons. Each customer who gets to the head of the queue walks away with 20 packets of detergent.

The Soviet Union is a large importer of cleaning substances. One powder, made under licence in Iran used to be plentiful in the shops, but not surprisingly there is none to be found now. Detergents and household cleaners also come from Eastern Europe, but the imports cannot satisfy demand. The main supplier now appears to be India, and consignments are snapped up as soon as they arrive.

Russians have always been used to periodic shortages of comon consumer goods. But things this year appear to be worse than usual. Shoes are difficult to get. Toilet paper is never readily available for more than a few days. Toothpaste and shampoo are erratic—sometimes the best stocked shops are the least likely ones, such as airport kiosks.

Muscovites are particularly cross because they say the capital is being plundered by people from the provinces. Paradoxically, as it is well known that Moscow receives better supplies of almost every commodity

Many of the shortages can be attributed to the effects on industry of the hard winter and the increasingly sluggish performance of the economy,

Ordinary people blame the Olympic Games. They say everything is now being held back so that supplies will be abundant when the foreign visitors are here. But Muscovites will be happy then. With the city closed to all non-residents, except foreigners, they will be able to stock up unhindered.

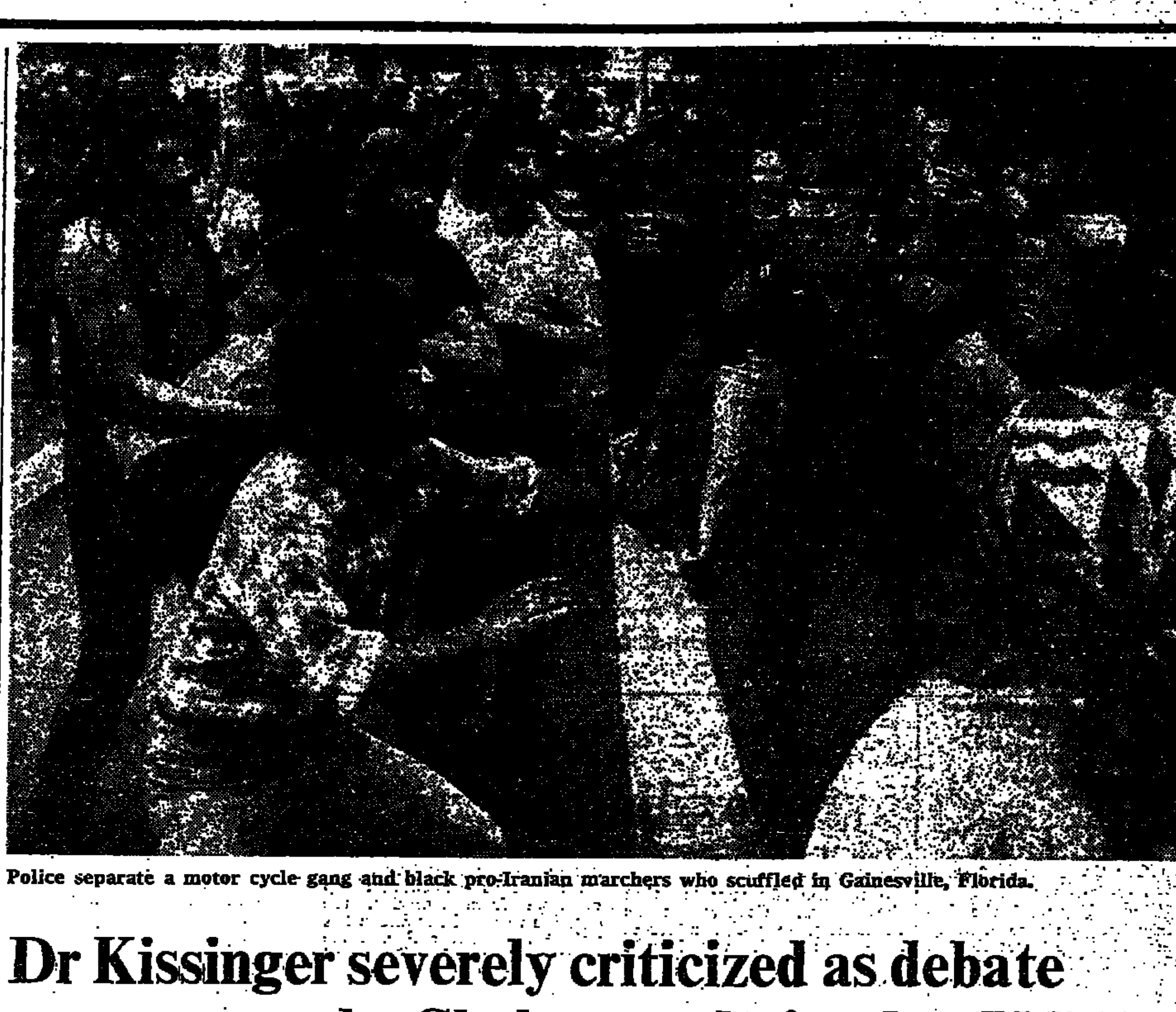
Suspect who escaped 'plans to kill Pope'

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, Nov 26

Mehmet Ali Agca, aged 22, who is accused of murdering Mr Abdi Ipekci, a journalist, said in a letter today that he had escaped from prison over the weekend "to kill the Pope," on his visit to Istanbul on Thursday.

The Anatolian news agency, in Istanbul police officials, said an anonymous telephone caller to the waily Milliyet—Turkey's leading independent newspaper of which Mr Ipekci was editor-in-chief—said that a letter addressed to them was "left in front of the Anatolian agency building."

Earlier, sources in Istanbul reported that the martial law authorities had detained 27 soldiers—including an army captain and three NCOs—for negligence in the escape of Mr Agca.



Police separate a motor cycle gang and black pro-Iranian marchers who scuffled in Gainesville, Florida.

Dr Kissinger severely criticized as debate grows over why Shah was admitted to US

From Micsael Leapman
New York, Nov 26

A heated debat is developing here over why the Shah was allowed to come to America, provoking the hostage-taking in Tehran. Many believe that the United States administration was fooled by the Shah's friends into allowing him to come on a dubious medical pretext, hoping he could stay to enjoy the wealth he has accumulated here.

When he arrived on October 22 he was said to be suffering from a blocked bile duct. Gale bladder surgery was performed two days later but one gallstone eluded the surgeon. At the same time the Shah is being treated for lymph gland cancer in his neck, a condition he has had for six years.

Details of the Shah's exact medical treatment are hard to obtain because, according to one of his doctors, Dr Bjorn Thorbjarnson, "we are sworn to secrecy". Mr Robert Armao, the Shah's spokesman, said: "The particular radiation treatment he is undergoing is not available elsewhere. Evidence suggests, however, that it can be obtained in many other centres in the United States and abroad.

According to an Associated Press report last week, the Shah has been treated with a linear accelerator, which attacks tumors under the skin and costs $500,000 about £240,000. The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, where he is being treated, has two new accelerators.

One of them, the Mevatron 12, is available in more than a dozen countries, according to Associated Press. These include Argentina, Brazil, Sweden, Germany, Venezuela and Turkey. The other machine, a Therac 20, has been sold in more than 24 countries, according to its Canadian manufacturer.

The Shah was moved from Mexico for his New York treatment, but Dr Jose Noriega Limon, Director of Mexico's National Cancer Institute, said: "We have all the drugs necessary to treat him. We have all the equipment".

The most commonly circulated theory about why the Shah was really allowed to come here is that it was the result of persistent pressure on the Administration by his friends, the most influential of whom are Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, and Mr David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Dr Kissinger has denied any involvement but made no secret of his desire to see the Shah stay. Much of the wealth with which the Shah escaped from Iran is believed to be deposited in the Chase Manhattan, though the bank will not confirm it, citing the confidentiality needed in banker-client relations.

Dr Kissinger has infuriated some by saying at first that he would not intervene while President Carter was trying to release the hostages, and then making pointed remarks which seemed to amount to just such intervention. The United States must not, he said, elevate impotence into a way of life. People were sick of seeing Americans pushed around.

He has been criticized for such provocative remarks with a fury which indicates the depth of emotion felt here on the topic. Mr George Ball, the former Under-Secretary of State, yesterday described Dr Kissinger's statement as "enormously obnoxious". In an editorial, the *New York Times* termed his attitude "repellent".

That paper's columnist, Anthony Lewis, reports today, without specifying his source, that Dr Kissinger has advised the Shah not to leave the United States until he is asked to do so by the Administration. The Shah told an interviewer last week that he was keen to leave as soon as he was well enough, possibly towards the end of next week.

"The most striking thing about Kissinger's performance in the Iran affair has been its cowardice", wrote Mr Lewis. "He urged the Shah's admission to the United States but has taken no responsibility for the result. He has privately assured officials of his support in the hostage crisis and publicly undermined them."

Chinese appeal: China called today for a quick and peaceful solution to the dispute between Iran and the United States and implied it would like to see the speedy release of Americans held in the United States embassy in Teheran (Reuter reports from Peking).

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, Peking's first comment on the dispute, indicated China's concern that it could lead to a military conflict.

The statement, published by the New China News agency, did not specifically mention the hostages but it called for the observance of principles guiding international relations and accepted diplomatic immunities.

"We always hold that the internal affairs of each country should be managed by its own people and that there should be no interference in the internal affairs of other countries. But at the same time, we hold that the principles guiding international relations and the accepted diplomatic immunities should be universally respected", the statement said.

Battle-experienced troops could put up good fight

Glint of new steel in Iran army

From Robert Fisk
Tehran, Nov 26

Iran's army, the broken backbone of monarchical power, is feeling its way cautiously back to life at a critical moment in the history of the Iranian revolution.

As Ayotollah Khomeni continues to invoke the spirit of martyrdom and calls for the training of 20 million armed youths amid predictions of an American invasion, the new Islamic Republican Army is trying to rebuild its strength to its pre-revolution complement of 280,000 men.

After the appointment of the Bazargan Government last spring, every officer from the rank of General and above was retired (more than 300 of the former Shahs commanders departed in just two weeks) and conscription was lowered from two years' service to a crippling one year.

Now it has been raised to 18 months and about 200,000 men are reporting for duty, a figure much higher than that propagated in the Pentagon's most recent assessment of the Iranian army.

Nowhere have the army's problems since the revolution been more apparent than in Kurdistan, where ad hock units were thrown together to fight Kurdish rebels demanding autonomy for their region. So great has been the turnover of troops in the Kurdish battles that every Iranian army division, especially the 28th which is based on Sanandaj, has been involved in the fighting.

Yet Kurdistan gave the army a new motivation and revived its old command and control structure. More important, it proved that the revolutionary guards, the Islamic praetorian guard which owes its allegiance primarily to the clergy and not to the Government, could not cope with serious internal unrest. The guards were unable to overcome the Kurdish guerrillas.

Zealous, over-enthusiastic and and inexperienced, they suffered heavily in Kurdistan, and while the force, which numbers about 8,000 acts as a coordinating central command, it at least has to acknowledge the necessity of maintaining a regular army.

The commander of the armys first division in Tehran, which contains the pro-Khomeini elements of the old imperial guard, said only last week that the Kurdistan campaign had proved that "the army still has a role to play in Iran".

But maintaining an army is one thing: maintaining its equipment is quite another. In theory, the army can mobilize up to 1,600 tanks, including 800 British-manufactured Chieftains and 600 American M60s.

Most of the American tanks are in good working order as they are comparatively easy to maintain and repair, but the Chieftains, with their sophisticated firing mechanism, may already be down to half-strength through lack of maintenance. Some of them have been cannibalized for spare parts.

The Iranians also use the American M47, which made an appearance in Kurdistan recently, but they are almost useless in armoured warfare and could not be employed against an invading force.

The new army is commanded by Major General Hossein Shaker, an allegedly genial man regarded as a good military coordinator, who was trained at Fort Leavenworth. But the old Turkish and Kurdish blood in the officer corps has been sapped away.

The only senior officer of ethnic minority extraction is Brigadier General Zahir Najad, who was promoted from colonel to command the 64th infantry division at Orumiye six months ago. He is of Turkish descent.

Some regular officers are now helping to train the Revolutionary Guards, who are also rumoured to have a cadre from the Palestine Liberation Organization assisting them. Certainly the guards act not just as a paramilitary gendarmerie but as a check on the army's power as well.

Dr Mustafa Chamran, the Minister of Defence, has bemoaned the fact that his officers are not more "revolutionary". They are certainly regarded as a moderate, politically disinterested group of men who are more concerned about the army's national prestige than in advancing the Islamic cause.

In the right environment, the army in Iran could reemerge as a credible force capable of putting up considerable resistance to a limited military assault on the country.

But once the army's power is rebuilt it may also present a political threat; and there are those in Iran who may prefer to risk the dangers of outside attack in order to safeguard their revolution.

Envoy gave warning of reaction

Tehran, Nov 26.—The American Embassy in Tehran warned the State Department last September that admitting the Shah into the United States would prompt adverse reactions here, according to a secret cable released today by the students occupying the embassy.

The cable, considered authentic by Western diplomats here, was sent to the State Department by Mr Bruce Laingen, the Chargé d'Affaires.

Many Iranians do not believe that the Shah, being treated for cancer in New York, is really ill. They cite documents found at the embassy which suggest the Americans had been planning all along to admit him.

According to a photocopy of the new cable, marked "secret", Mr Laingen told the State Department "Our own relationship is improving but only slowly and it is not yet of the substance that would weather very well the impact of the Shah entering the United States."

The cble added that "the cleric here are in the ascendancy and that, I fear, worsens the public atmosphere as regards any gesture on our part towards the Shah. . . .

"Given that kind of atmosphere, and the kind of public posturing about the Shah by those who control or influence public opinion here, I doubt that the Shah being ill would have much amelioirating effect on the degree of reaction here.

"That being said it is as you indicate of utmost importance that we talk quietly with the Government of Iran in advance if we intend to admit him (the Shah), even for a very short period."—Reuter.

President Marcos defies democracy call from church

From Peter Hazelhurst
Manila, Nov 26

President Ferdinand Marcos is firmly esconced in office, running the Philippines under his somewhat benign form of dictatorial rule, in spite of demands for more political freedom from the country's only effective opposition—the powerful Roman Catholic Church.

President Marcos has ruled the archipelago of 7,107 islands under the iron grip of martial law for the past seven years. He appears to have weathered a now faltering insurrection of Muslim secessionists in the south—a bitter fight which has claimed more than 50,000 lives since the Army seized power in 1972.

But the 62-year-old leader must feel more concern about the growing voices of dissent in the Catholic Church, which can sway the sentiments of 80 per cent of a population of 45 million Filipinos.

In recent months, eminent leaders of the church, such as the respected Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaimie Sin, have called on Mr Marcos to lift martial law and lay down a timetable for free elections and a return to democracy.

Cardinal Sin, who is known as a cautious moderate, warned the regime that more and more Catholics were turning to their priests because they could find no other forum to take up their complaints against abuse and corruption by the military authorities.

The cardinal complained that the present constitution did not provide for a smooth transition of power and that the country might be plunged into turmoil if President Marcos died or was forced to step down.

He claimed that the press had been muzzled and members of the Interim National Assembly, elected to office during a controversial election in 1978, would not champion complaints against the regime.

"All judges have a sword of Damocles hanging over their heads," he declared. "If they incur the displeasure of the powers that be, they could easily be removed from office. What I am saying is that people hesitate now to go to court because, rightly or wrongly, they believe they cannot get justice," he declared.

Many of President Marcos's supporters and even members of the Opposition concede that martial law saved the country from an era of anarchy in September, 1972. But voices within the ruling party, the New Society Movement, are now wondering whether martial law should not now be lifted.

But President Marcos is apparently unruffled by the criticism. Justifying his policy at a recent press conference, he said he was unwilling to lift martial law in the foreseeable future because local and foreign economists predicted that the world would have to face a crisis during the next 18 months.

"Now, rather than court the possible dire consequences, we are playing it safe. We would like to play safe both from the economic point of view and the security point of view," the President claimed.

Western observers believe President Marcos has decided to defy the dissident voices within the church, because the priesthood is divided. A conservative element support his regime while others believe that the church should remain outside the political arena.

He is also aware that he faces no threat from the established opposition. His main rival, Mr Benigno Aquino, arrested seven years ago at the onset of martial law, is still incarcerated and the voices of his other adversaries have been muted by repressive political decrees.

The regime's critics claim that the President is grooming his forceful wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos, as his successor. Government supporters have launched several campaigns in recent months to persuade Mrs Marcos, at present the Governor of Metropolitan Manila and Minister for Human Settlements, to accept the vacant post of Deputy Prime Minister.

ENTERTAINMENTS

THE ARTS

Il furioso
Queen Elizabeth Hall

William Mann

The forty-third of Donizetti's 70 operas, *Il furioso all'isola di San Domingo*, was composed for the Teatro Valle in Rome, shortly after *L'elisir d'amore*, shortly before *Torquato Tasso* (revived in London a few years ago) and *Lucrezia Borgia*. The premiere in January, 1833, was greatly successful; and when the triumph was repeated at La Scala, Milan, *Il furioso* began to go the rounds of the major European opera houses; it reached London in December, 1836, with a production at the Lyceum Theatre. Since then we have seen nothing of it, until Sunday night when the Donizetti Society and Leslie Head's "Pro-Opera" venture gave a concert performance to support the Dominican Hurricane Relief Fund.

Apart from the topical relevance, and the occurrence of two tropical storms in the course of the opera, *Il furioso* has retained some fame for the unusual characterization of its hero, a young married man driven to distraction by his wife's infidelities, who has left home in Spain (the plot derives from an episode in Cervantes's *Don Quixote*) to sojourn on San Domingo. Most unconventionally, Donizetti assigned the part to a baritone, a species of voice only recently arrived in music and normally restricted in opera to villains and fathers. The distracted Cardenio has a long, taxing and extremely varied part, vividly taken in this performance by Terence Sharpe.

The piece is formally individul in that it contains only four arias, one for each of the three principals (husband, brother, wife), and a rondo-finale for the soprano wife, much indebted to that in Rossini's *Cenerentola* (libretto also by Ferretti). The rest is all recitatives, far from dry, ensembles, particularly duets, and melodious music somewhere in between. The finest piece of all is a duet in which the hero persuades a black slave (a comic bass part taken with irresistible sparkle by Frank Olegario) to part with the two pistols he is carrying to a local chieftain; it may be compared, not unjustly, with "Venti scudi" in *L'elisir*, or "Cheti, cheti" in *Don Pasquale*.

For all its musical interest, the opera seemed long, partly because we were not seeing it, partly because both Lois McDonall and Eduardo Velazco marred their attractive singing to splashes of raw or unsteady vocalization; and partly because Mr Head, conducting with habitual fervour, obtained only a heavy, lack-lustre performance.

Pre-Raphaelite meets Art Nouveau

Vienna Turn of the Century
Fischer Fine Art

Turner Loan Exhibition
Agnew

The Classical Ideal
David Carritt

Graham Sutherland's Bestiary
Marlborough Fine Art

Alison Britton
Crafts Council Gallery

Keith Milow
Rowan Gallery

Graham Sutherland: The Mouse (detail)

November is usually madness in the London galleries, early shows of possible (or often, financially speaking, impossible) Christmas presents vying with the work of new artists, fanciful and/or scholarly assemblages from the art of the past and chances to catch up with what the modern classics have recently been about. This year is no exception, and, at the risk of incoherence, the best one can do is point in as many different directions as practicable and hope there will be something for every taste.

Very much to my own is the show of Art and Design from turn-of-the-century Vienna at Fischer's. It includes, naturally, some of the big names in painting, like Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, mostly with small or slight works—drawings, graphics—which yet indicate vividly, perhaps because they are so easy and unconsidered, the artists' effortless mastery. But the great advantage of this particular show is that it does create a whole ambiance for these works, with generous displays of furniture, glass, silverware and textile designs by friends and contemporaries. Of particular interest is the series of designs by Koloman Moser for stained glass in the Kirche am Steinhof, Vienna, a curious and effective meeting of Pre-Raphaelite and Art Nouveau sensibilities. There are also some beautifully restrained furniture by Moser, the strict, rectilinear silverware of Josef Hoffmann, and a lot of sketches for fabrics by lesser-known, mostly female, members of the Weiner Werkstatte, which often look forward (not always all that happily) as far as the 1950s in style and subject-matter. And who could resist the idea of being surrounded by furniture and fittings made in 1907 specially for the Cabaret Fledermaus?

Agnew's collection of Turners fulfils at once the purposes of scholarship and pleasure-seeking. In 1825 Turner was commissioned to make an extensive series of watercolours of "picturesque Views in England and Wales", to be engraved by commercial engravers under his close supervison and sold in parts. The project seems never really to have worked, and passed from publisher to publisher before grinding ignominiously to a halt in 1838. It did, however, produce 96 of Turner's most overwhelming watercolour and now, for the first time since the abandonment of the scheme, the whole collection of designs is brought together in some shape or form: more than half of the original paintings, and the gaps filled with the engravings made after them.

Pleasant though the engravings are, and indicative of Turner's powers of sheer composition even when colour was denied him, it is the watercolours which really dazzle and amaze. Look, for example, at the way he captured that fugitive golden light which comes sometimes just after heavy rain in the painting of Stamford High Street. Or the apocalyptic storm which rages around Salisbury Cathedral, leaving it philosophically unmoved. Or observe his eye for novelty and oddity: the newly-developed terrace which sticks out like a sore thumb above the river at Exeter, or the extraordinary notion of drawing Harlech Castle from above, when practically anyone else would have stressed its craggy sublimity from below.

In his introduction to the catalogue of *The Classical Ideal* David Carritt explains how the exhibition came about from a chance relationship perceived between a Romano-Egyptian portrait and a neoclassical Picasso. The result is a small but far-ranging collection of drawings and paintings which follow the pursuit of a classical ideal in depictions of the human face and figure through about 2,500 years. Not that everything is all that idealized: it is not difficult to see why David should have been criticized for his pudgy and rather satyr-like Cupid, while the *Seated Male Nude* from late fifteenth-century North Italy does carry with it an extraordinary sense of immediate physical presence. Many other things, like the small and mysterious Bellini allegory (of what?) the amazingly formalized early portrait of his wife by Cézanne and the immaculately finished Ingres *Odalisque*, are rare and beautiful, and one or two, such as Louis Gauffier's *Portrait of a Lady* or Picasso's *Saltimbanque*, are so unashamedly pretty that they banish all resistance.

It is not often that one could use the term "pretty" of Graham Sutherland's work, but several of his new series of aquatints suggested by verses from Apollinaire's *Bestiaire* do fit the word perfectly. And none the worse for that. Charm is a quality not much prized these days, even though its absence is regularly deplored. Sutherland's drawings of animals—the cosier sorts of animals, anyway—have always had an oddity and approachability born, one would say, of affection. Here the mice, the tortoise and the dromedaries are positively cuddly, and even the "troupe infecte" of evil little insects, ranged in battle order, has a certain touch of cuteness. Also, the subtle, gentle colours natural to the aquatint process give the prints a grace and finish which is not always present in the preliminary drawings: this is one of the most pleasing yet of the series of prints which have been occupying a lot of Sutherland's attention in recent years.

Two younger, lesser-known artists call for attention. Alison Britton is one of the most talented and original of the newer ceramists. Most of the works in her show are, one way or another, jug-shaped, and could no doubt at a pinch actually be used as containers. But, though pieces of superlative craftsmanship, they take off so far on their own that any distinction we might have in our minds between craft and art is totally blurred. The forms are mostly angular, with the "sides" of the jugs meeting at eccentric angles and a lot of interest residing in the changing profiles of the pieces as one walks round them, like sculpture. The decorations, often with conventionalized bird, fish, or plant forms, sometimes suggest ancient Egypt, but more often inhabit a quirky world of their own.

The references in Keith Milow's latest group of—well, I suppose one must call them sculptures, for want of a better word—are quite clear. He has moved on from the crosses which so impressively peopled the Round House Gallery last year to Cenotaphs, courtesy of Sir Edwin Lutyens. There is something a little disorientating about seeing these rust-coloured memorials tipped on their sides, and in one case paired in head-on collision across a room, rather like the machine in *Bride of Frankenstein* in the midst of which one somehow expects Elsa Lanchester to materialize. As usual Milow's command of detailing and finish is impeccable, and as usual nothing is made of what it appears to be.

John Russell Taylor

LSO/Colin Davis
Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

It is not the fact of having four movements that makes Brahms's second piano concerto a symphony lightly in disguise, nor the absence of a cadenza for the soloist. It is the sense of piano and orchestra gripped together in expounding something far above competition or display.

The magnificence of Sunday night's performance of the work was due very much to the spirit of endeavour shared by Vladimir Ashkenazy and the London Symphony Orchestra, under Colin Davis, but that did not by any means make this a uniform account. It was, in fact, greatly powered by the benign frictions and interactions between Mr Ashkenazy's poetic artistry and Mr Davis's tough singing line.

The tendency was for the piano to linger in exquisite detail and fluid rhythm and for the orchestra to press forward with a massive intensity that sometimes brought an echo of Bruckner to the music. Mr Ashkenazy began in thoughtful mood, almost as if his opening duet with solo horn had been a memory of a past performance tacked on to the beginning of this one; a nice touch.

He was roused by Mr Davis's dynamism but he wisely made no attempt to equal the orchestra's might with fortissimos of effort. Instead, his strength was all-rhythmic, a matter of firmly placed accents and controlled ornament.

Mr Davis meanwhile proved accommodating to his soloist and willing in the slow movement to provide rich, velvet chords as support for the warmly coloured jewels that tumbled from the keyboard. Indeed, there was enough mutual confidence for the partners to vary repetitions effectively or to adopt subtly different approaches in the Finale, the orchestra ebullient, the piano not quite so certain. And no one in a packed hall will have missed a cadenza from Mr Ashkenazy, who was throughout the soul of beautiful pianism.

This notice is reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Teamwork for all

All festivals strive to establish their own special identity and character, but all too many contrive to be the same: a temporary refuge on which the same jet-setting celebrities descend to play much the same repertoire before migrating onwards to their next haven. Of course, when a great artistic personality sets his stamp on the proceedings, as did Britten at Aldeburgh or as Karajan does at Salzburg, there is a special character. Naples, which is the setting for two *Settimana internazionale di musica d'insieme* in May and November, falls into this category. The guiding spirit is Salvatore Accardo, who gathers a handful of artists of international standing, together with some younger, rising talents, to make chamber music in the delightful surroundings of the Villa Pignatelli.

None, however celebrated, appears in a solo capacity. As with the Marlboro Festival, this is "a republic of equals," yet it differs from Marlboro in one important respect: all the rehearsals, which go on throughout the day, are open to the public, so that the listener can follow the growth of a performance from its first run-through right to the evening concert. Going from one rehearsal to another, in adjoining rooms of the villa, I was almost reminded of the informal atmosphere of a summer school. As the concerts are crowded to capacity, programmes are repeated the following evening, and work on the repertoire continues at rehearsal the next morning. Audiences are keenly responsive and, encouragingly, predominantly youthful. The actual programmes are not finalized until the last minute and details are displayed on a blackboard rather like a menu in a bistro. The *Associazione Alessandro Scarlatti*, which promotes the festival, keeps ticket prices at a moderate level.

It goes without saying that, given a few hours in rehearsal, it is not always possible to achieve the tonal homogeneity and refinement of internal balance of permanent chamber ensembles, but there are corresponding gains in freshness and spontaneity. In any event I could not flaw the reading of the Brahms C minor Piano Quartet, opus 60, on any grounds: it was one of the finest I have heard from any ensemble whether ad hoc or permanent, live or on record, and brought together Accardo himself, Bruno Giuranna, Lynn Harrell and Jacques Klein. All possess outsize musical personalities but, while the three string players are well established on the London scene, the Brazilian pianist Jacques Klein is not.

It will come as no surprise to those who heard his Festival Hall concert earlier this year that his Brahms had all the keyboard command, warmth and finesse that one could wish for. He has a vital intelligence, a range of colour and a musical imagination that to my mind puts him among the front rank of pianists today, with as strong a claim on the South Bank as some of the glossier keyboard stars that monopolize public attention. The Mendelssohn D minor Trio, opus 49, that he played with Accardo and a young Belgian cellist, France Springuel, was marvellously spontaneous with some elegant and felicitous *leggiero* playing.

Earlier the week had brought us fine accounts of a Mendelssohn rarity, the opus 87 String Quintet, an early Webern quartet movement whose Mahleresque resonances and *Death in Venice* ambience struck a responsive chord with the Neapolitan audience, and Dohnányi's opus 8 Serenade. Over the week I watched with particular pleasure the consistent eloquence of the French cellist Alain Meunier, a strong personality with an effortless technique and great lyrical fervour. His instrument sang with a rich-toned splendour, phrasing was always imaginative and alive, and the sense of line strong. He is an artist of character and nobility whose individuality still made itself felt even in the company of Lynn Harrell. Another of the younger artists should be noted, the Icelandic violist Uunar Sveinbjarnadottir, a pupil of the late Cecil Aronowitz and Bruno Giuranna. She proved consistent in purity of intonation and sensitivity to line and colour, right from the Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence* through to her well-mtached phrasing and refined tone in the Webern—a player of quiet integrity who made her mark in the week's proceedings.

Robert Layton

Real people still dancing down the ages

August Bournonville, Denmark's greatest master of ballet and one of that country's most famous citizens, died 100 years ago this week. He feared oblivion and for a long time suffered something like it in Britain; but now, as our ballet critic John Percival explains in this centenary tribute, his work is in the repertories of all the major British companies and many in America too

When August Bournonville visited St Petersburg in 1874, aged 69, he still had three years before retiring as director of the Royal Danish Ballet. He envied the splendid provision made for the ballet school there and noted the advantage of a *corps de ballet* numbering over 200, "partly young, pretty and clever people". He admired the superb talent of the female soloists but remarked with disapproval on the short skirts of "the feminine costume, if one dares to call it that".

He also recorded that in judging the ballets he had to "forget—or at least hide—the system which for more than 40 years I have followed in my own works", adding that "*Beauty* and *Grace* are the rarest and most difficult things to achieve in the art of dancing". The implied assessment of his own work is fair. Beauty and grace are among the qualities that made his ballets live, together with the humour and energy which he thought important in his own dancing. But on one point he was wrong, expecting to be soon forgotten.

"What a cruel thing it is", he complained, comparing his fate sadly with that of painters or poets: "the poorest and least of them will be able to leave behind more than I will". However, 100 years after his death, he is more widely known than ever in his life: more famous, perhaps, than any other Dane except his friend Hans Andersen.

The anniversary falls on the last day of November; it is being marked by a week of performances at the Royal Theatre, Copenhagen, where seven full works and parts of two others will be given. Among other celebrations around the world, Festival Ballet and the Scottish Ballet have mounted fine new productions of, respectively, *La Sylphide* and *Napoli*, his two best ballets.

Bournonville's misplaced fear of oblivion produced two valuable results. First, he wrote three volumes of memoirs about *My Theatre Life* which are full of information, gossip and opinion, not only about ballet but the other arts and society generally. They cover a period from Nelson's "piratical attack" on Copenhagen (1808) until the arguments, still highly topical, over theatrical costs and subsidies which raged about the time of opening the present Danish Royal Theatre (1874). All my quotations come from a translation made, with devoted care, by Patricia McAndrew and newly published in one volume by A. & C. Black. It costs £20 but contains some 700 pages of invaluable material.

One incidental pleasure in the memoirs is to see, reading between the lines, how a sense of duty jostled with a desire for personal glory in his nature. Luckily, they often worked happily together, never more than in the other task prompted by his fear of oblivion. That was, just before retiring, to polish the productions of 16 of his most popular ballets. He told his daughter Charlotte that he thought they might last up to 20 years and tide the company over until the next great choreographer emerged.

A century later Denmark is still awaiting a choreographer to equal him. That is not surprising, since he ranks with his contemporary Petipa as one of the supreme creators of classical ballet, matched in our century only by Ashton and Balanchine. All four men developed national styles of classical dance and helped build up a company as well as a repertory.

That accounts for the survival of Bournonville's ballets within Denmark, but international fame long seemed destined to elude him. If Adeline Genée had thought his choreography suited her, it could have reached British audiences half a century sooner than it did. Genée, the darling of London, learnt the duet from *Flower Festival at Genzano* when she returned to her native Denmark as a guest star in 1902, but it gave little scope for her exceptional virtuosity and she never repeated it.

I am fairly sure that duet eventually became the first Bournonville piece to reach London. I have a strong impression of being shown an old music hall programme, probably for the Coliseum or the Alhambra, on which two Danish dancers were announced to perform it. They must, I think, have been Elna Lassen and John Andersen during the mid-twenties but it seems to have caused no great stir.

Another quarter of a century on, that *Flower Festival* duet was the first Bournonville choreography ever given by a British company. It was the short-lived but admirable Metropolitan Ballet, which had included three outstanding Danish male dancers in its ranks: Erik Bruhn, Poul Gnatt and Frank Schaufuss. But none of them mounted or danced it. Instead, it happened almost by chance.

Harald Lander, then directing the Royal Danish Ballet, had taught the piece to two young dancers, Elsa Marianne von Rosen and Maurice Béjart (a Swede and a Frenchman, the nationalities of Bournonville's parents) for a gala in Paris in July, 1949. A month later, they repeated it in London, at the Princes Theatre (since renamed Shaftesbury). But, before that von Rosen taught it to a British partner, Henry Danton, and they danced it during Metropolitan's season at the old Lyric, Hammersmith.

The general reaction was that the piece was interesting only as an historical curiosity; pretty, but nothing more. That might have been the beginning and end of Bournonville's international fame if an English writer, Peter Williams, had not been invited as guest critic by a Danish newspaper in 1950. Seeing for the first time *Conservatoire*, *Napoli* and *La Sylphide*, he was fired with such enthusiasm that he urged the Royal Danish Ballet to bring them to London. They came to Covent Garden in 1953 and this time, seeing the complete works given by fine casts, everyone was bowled over.

Since then, all the major British and many American ballet companies, and others around the world, have taken ballets by Bournonville into their repertories. Far more people must have seen work by him in the past 25 years than in the previous 75 since his death, or the half-century when he led the Copenhagen company.

Three things, I think, explain his belated popularity. One is that his ballets need no special pleading or reinterpretation for modern audiences. They are always, even when they include a supernatural element, about real characters in credible circumstances. Ordinary people, too: a Scottish farmer, a Neapolitan fisherman and his bride, Danish sailors far from home, a real-life Don Juan serving with the volunteers.

Next, in an age when the ballerina was exalted and male dancing often despised, Bournonville was one of the few who insisted on equal prominence. What if he was thinking of his own glory as well as that of his art? The effect was to make his plots stronger, his choreography more varied and better able, after the long years of being hidden from the world, to flourish today.

Above all, the dances Bournonville created, always expressive of character and situation, have a special flavour of their own. It derives from the way he combined a multiplicity of steps, his strong, clear but often unexpected patterns, the subtly syncopated rhythm of his phrases. The steps are often simple; the way they are put together often makes them difficult, but when well done they always suggest the pure joy of dancing.

Antony Peebles
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Joan Chissell

The year has not brought a surfeit of tribute to John Ireland, born in August, 1879, so Antony Peebles's choice of *Sarnia* as the centrepiece of his piano recital on Sunday afternoon was welcome. Completed in 1941, this three-movement suite vividly evokes the Guernsey the composer loved so well, not only its unchanging natural beauty in spring, but in "Le Catioroc" its stranger, darker links with antiquity and the cult of Pan. Mr Peebles found the right brooding intensity for the cantilena of this opening piece, also much of the necessary grace for "In a May Morning" and plenty of exhilaration, even if not all the requisite tonal magic, for the concluding "Song of the Springtides".

No doubt he should also be commended for his enterprise in giving what was announced as the South Bank premiere of Liszt's Meyerbeer paraphrase, *Illustrations du Prophete No. 1*. But not even Liszt's wizardry could disguise the poverty of the selected prayer, march and hymn. The work is not fit to be mentioned in the same breath as the *Reminiscences de Norma*. Mr Peebles did his best for it in melodic succulence and panache, but I doubt if even a young fiend like Gavrilov could make its exhumation worth while.

By far the most distinguished playing of the recital came in three Debussy preludes—and not least in terms of sound per se. In several earlier contexts tone was sufficiently hard-edged to make me wonder if it could be attributed to over-exposure to concrete, which is to say Mr Peebles's choice of open rather than drawn curtains behind the piano. But in "La Cathedrale engloutie", "Le Vent dans la plaine" and "La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune" his antennae acquired a new supersensitivity in every way. I only thought the bass a little starved when the cathedral rose from the sea.

After a pedestrian start, Chopin's fourth ballade was well shaped, and a group of studies competently dispatched. And it was good to hear Schubert's graceful, unjustly neglected E flat Sonata of 1817, even if the interpretation sounded less than fully convinced.

Fashion

by
Prudence Glynn

So what do those smart PROs actually wear? We picked out four, none of whom should be labelled as dressing at half price, but just as for looking right. We added two definitely non PROs to show two different ways the rest of us are shaping up.

Photographs by Edward Bell

■ Top left: Jane Wood, freelance, publicity consultant. Kilt, £4.99 from Primark, a new chain store with branches throughout the UK. Jersey (Shetland) also from Primark costs £4.50. Ipswich Bristol, Northampton . . . anywhere but London. Suede boots £37.99 from Duo at Bath and Bristol. Not quite new racoon jacket, remade to modern proportions by Maxwell Croft of Bond Street from a full length fur. P.S. The kilt was St Laurents most important offering last year. ■ Above: Gai Pearl Marshall wearing a resida green soft wool crepe dress by Pauline Wynne Jones, one of the best and least recognised of British designers.

■ Below: Deborah Bennett of Estee Lauder, on wing or perhaps one should say on keel to an Aramis promotions with House of Fraser which incorporated a policeman and a speedboat. Black and white pied de poule jacket by Jaeger, tightly belted, narrow black skirt by Caroline Charles, bottines by Charles Jourdan. Tiny diamonds by Jane Allen. ■ Bottom right: Una Mary Parker in a reversible white suit by Winsmore, a bargain reduced from £85 to £40. Boots, £55.

■ Centre: Mrs. Kovak, wife of the American painter, who just likes shopping in London (we photographed her in Browns, South Molton Street). "You don't get the depth of stock you get in America, but you get a great choice of style and here you get lovely service and friendly atmosphere." Enormous sleeping bag coat by Norma Kamali. Striped Fiorucci sweater, black pants tucked into beige boots, scarlet felt cap. Smart.

Where has all the smartness gone?

"Do you know, I walked down Bond Street at lunchtime on a nice sunny morning last week and I saw only five well-dressed girls. Two of them were models and the other three were girls in public relations who just have to look good for the image of their clients. But what struck me most was that none of them are paying full price for their clothes."

This comment, by a very shrewd and well-disposed-to British-fashion person could be one of the reasons why the fashion business has gone through three of the worst seasons yet and a number of staunch names have collapsed.

Who could have envisaged the demise of André Peters, one of that band of manufacturing houses which gave us our superb post-war reputation for quality in tailoring at the right price?

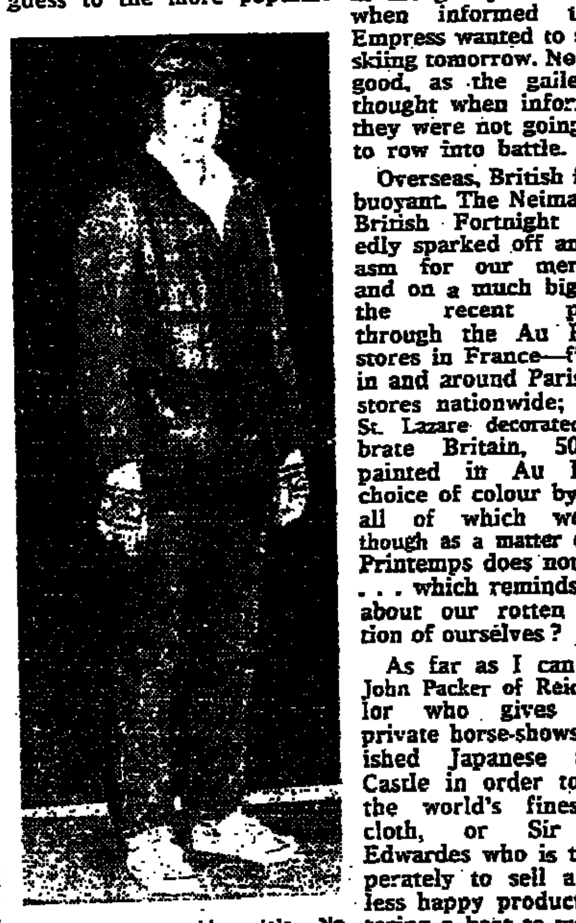
The problem runs right across the board. At the very top my personal grief is for the vastly diminished empire of Bill Gibb. I regard him as one of the most gifted designers in the world, but what is talent without "the bottom line"? I was introduced to Bill by Lucienne Phillips, whose shops in Knightsbridge and Paris continue to fly the British flag, though in fact she is French. At that time I had cobbled together one of the earliest combined designer shows in 1970.

The model girls were flushed at somewhat irregular intervals from the equally irregular *cabine* of the private office of Lord Thomson and capered across bits of the board room furniture. Bill Gibb was unknown and totally magnificent.

Then, we have lost Bus Stop, which with Biba seemed set to provide for a generation of (quite different) young women. Lee Bender, who is Bus Stop, is one of the cleverest and most diligent designers I know. Few outputs seemed to have a surer grasp on what the customer wanted.

Likewise the decision by an equally bright group, Wallis, not to go ahead with their store over the new Bond Street tube station has given rise to thoughts of less happy sales figures. Wallis dresses the next group up from Bus Stop.

But even the magic names of Burberry and Scotch House, smack in the middle of the haute design/trendy bunch, report a decline. Harvey Nichols, our only fashion speciality store, has lost its MD, and even the promise of the dulcet hand of none less than Edward Rayne bodes change, my guess to the more popular.



■ Emma Heywood-Lonsdale. No way a PRO but the Look for the Sloane Rangers. Sleeveless quilted jacket, stuffed with duck down by Puffa, bought at the Royal Agricultural show, Warwickshire, for £25. Essential under. Heavy knit sweater and woolly gloves.

Anyone seriously interested in the fashion industry in this country—and what about all those students who graduated last summer and are desperately looking for jobs—might like to ponder the reasons; lack of money; lack of inclination, with food so expensive and a great trend towards home-stuff buying, what remains of one's disposable income may be redirected. The innate determination of Englishwomen not to bother about what they wear. The weather. The lack of fashion direction.

So much for the bad news, as the galley slaves thought when informed that the Empress wanted to go water-skiing tomorrow. Now for the good, as the galley slaves thought when informed that they were not going to have to row into battle.

Overseas, British fashion is buoyant. The Neiman-Marcus British Fortnight undoubtedly sparked off an enthusiasm for our merchandise, and on a much bigger scale the recent promotion through the Au Printemps stores in France—five stores in and around Paris, plus 30 stores nationwide; the Gare St. Lazare decorated to celebrate Britain, 500 Minis painted in Au Printemps choice of colour by Leyland, all of which were sold, though as a matter of fact Au Printemps does not sell cars . . . which reminds me, how about our rotten presentation of ourselves?

As far as I can see only John Packer of Reid and Taylor who gives complete private horse-shows to astonished Japanese at Leeds Castle in order to promote the world's finest British cloth, or Sir Michael Edwardes who is trying desperately to sell a well, er, less happy product by chartering a boat to woo foreign buyers, have the faintest idea what self-confidence and salesmanship are all about. And sales equal jobs, as our crumbling textile industry ought to know only too well.

A point many readers have made is that shopping for clothes is just such an unpleasant experience. Don't I know. One peeps along the racks wondering if that delicious lasagne last night has made one just that teeniest bit one size up; the agony of the communal dressing room—are one's tights laddered, bra grubby, will one be arrested for taking in more than three frocks? Alone in a booth the size of a rabbit hutch you peer at a series of totally unaligned mirrors. Some take their friends, which annoys the salespersons further, if there are any and they have not by that stage informed you with a basilisk look that "We can't fit YOU."

As Clancy Sigal wrote in the *Sunday Telegraph* magazine, there is a death-wish in retail selling.

We have so much to learn from others. In France the sale of a dress, a sock, a shoe, is a conspiracy between the woman and her trusted vendeuse. He is growing a little tired of you? Perhaps a higher heel . . . ? a little lace on the panties?

In America it is pure professionalism. My husband, like most Englishmen, has never been measured since he had his suit for public school, but is quite determined that he knows just what size he is, which means that everything is baggy and has to be taken back by cross me. He met his match in Saks, Fifth Avenue. Short on an evening shirt, we had selected the style from the most astonishing collection. "Certainly, sir", announced the lady of a certain age from behind her domain, "I'll just measure you." "I know what size I am", retorted her customer. "Gentlemen always say that, sir", said she, advancing with pince nez and tape-measure firmly in position.

I watched, the rabbit between two stoats, as they backed across the department. She won, and it is the only shirt that does actually fit him.

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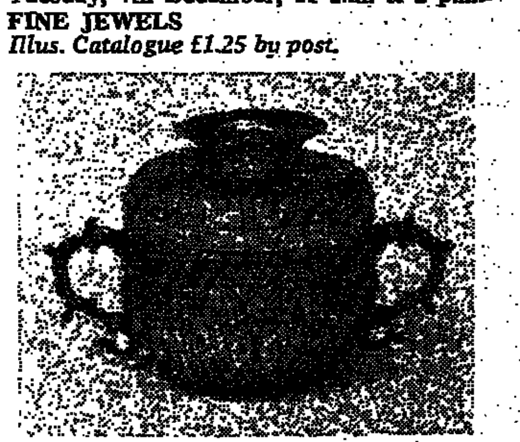

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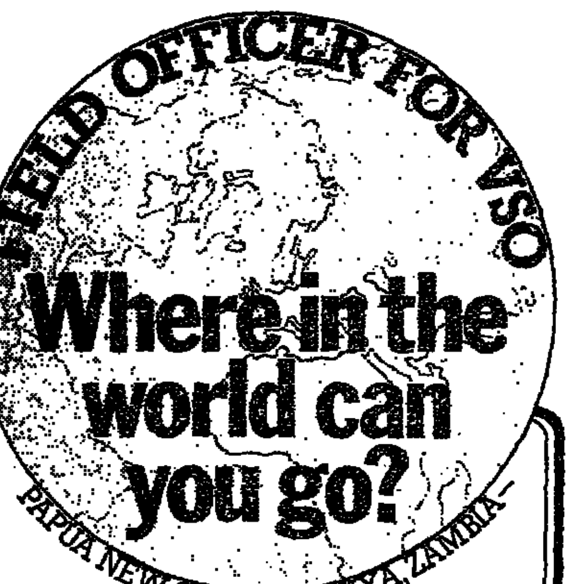

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THE TIMES

After the revolt at Mecca—even greater concern over oil supplies

Saudi Arabia: the West's nightmare

The revolt in the Mosque at Mecca last week should send a shiver of warning through the oil consuming world. Revolution in Saudi Arabia is the oil companies' waking nightmare. Despite the instability of much of the Middle East the ruling house of Saud has looked unshakable. Opposition has been minimal. Disruption, though not unthinkable, was best not thought about because the consequences would be so great.

The events in the Mosque are not going to be followed by immediate revolution. Nevertheless they have shown that Saudi Arabia is not immune from the unrest which has been sweeping Islam. Saudi Arabia is not Iran. It does not have the same seeds for discontent, the same urban poor, it is less industrialized, less populated, and most of its people are of a different sect to the Muslims who hold the Americans hostage in Tehran.

The House of Saud remains in control, but the evidence, what there is of it, shows that the breakout of internal dissent expressed in Mecca is rooted in the same anti-materialist feeling which has swept Iran, and that, in the most prolific oil producing country in the world, is a grim thought.

Economically, the most serious expression for the West of that anti-materialist feeling has been the near halving of Iran's oil production from 10 per cent to less than six per cent of the non-communist world's supplies.

Saudi Arabia is producing nine and a half million barrels (a barrel is 35 gallons) a day, almost a fifth of world consumption, equal to more than the total of the imports into the United States, six times the production from the North Sea and three times the output from Iran.

Prolonged disruption of those supplies in the event of revolution would bring the West to its knees. A cutback in the same proportion as in Iran would be almost as bad.

World oil supplies have been critical for the past 12 months. The balance between surplus and shortage is very delicate indeed. Despite the turmoil in Iran, more oil was produced in the first half of this year than in the corresponding period in 1978. Petrol queues both in the United Kingdom and the United States, the shortages of heating oil and aviation spirit, were caused as much by the disruption in the traditional supply routes and from stock-building after a cruel winter and in advance of expected shortages than by any cuts in production. It takes very little to make the world crude short.

Stocks now stand at 75 days supply throughout the world. Technically short-term disruption should cause few problems, but the tightness in supply is reflected by the continuing rise in prices. This could cause difficulties in itself. Iran is earning more from its three million barrels of exports a day now than it was from nearly twice that quantity under the Shah. If it were not necessary to produce so much to bring in income a year ago, it is not necessary to produce as much as it is doing now.

Iran might reduce its production by the 700,000 barrels a day it sent to the United States. The Americans can manage. The worry is that under Ayatollah Khomeini, the country is continuing to teeter on the edge of collapse.

It is to that situation that the problems in Saudi Arabia have added a new dimension. Could the Ayatollah stir up the Shi'ite workers in the Saudi oilfields? Might Islamic fervour break out in Saudi Arabia in more extreme form and endanger either the present regime or the level of oil production?

Saudi Arabia has remained a good friend to the West and to the United States, to which, through the partners in the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), it supplies about a quarter of America's imports, but it is increasingly isolated within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The days when Saudi Arabia was going to expand its production to meet the increasingly voracious appetite of the West have gone, but it is still producing one million barrels a day more than it would like to help alleviate the strains caused by the cutback in Iran, and it is still charging at $18 a barrel, $5.50 less than any other OPEC country for a comparable crude.

It is under pressure at home. Shaik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the oil minister, has referred to "young Turks" in the kingdom who would like to see it produce only five million barrels a day; and some other Arab nations see it as being too friendly to the United States while the Camp David accord has left the Palestine question unresolved.

Iran, having cut its consumption in two, the Saudis can no longer threaten to flood the world market with oil and drive prices down. For both practical and political reasons, it has become impossible.

The oil consuming countries could not withstand a reduction in supplies of 4½ million barrels a day without very painful action. The International Energy Agency's compulsory sharing scheme and the parallel EEC scheme would come into operation as any member reported a seven per cent cut in supplies. A Saudi cutback spurred by the "young Turks" to five million barrels a day would create such shortfalls. No one is saying it will happen, just that it can no longer be dismissed out of hand.

The IEA scheme, which works on equal misery for all, has never been used. Earlier this year, the United Kingdom lost up to five per cent of supplies. The misery with a Saudi cutback would be much worse. The question would be how long countries like Britain, with their own supplies would agree to go on exporting and sharing the misery.

If Saudi Arabia or Iran were to fall out of the picture completely there would be a phoney war period of three months while supplies in tanker were delivered. It would give the 20 IEA countries time to think.

But the fact is that a permanent loss of oil on the scale of a Saudi cutback to five million barrels a day would be very difficult to live with. Neither substitution nor conservation could take place fast enough to allay the effects. A revolution in Saudi Arabia, if it cut supplies for very long, would, in effect, be a catastrophe. The world would have the three-month grace period to sort itself out.

The United States imports almost twice as much oil as it did during the embargo following the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

There would be pressure to seek a "military solution", which would have incalculable consequences even if it succeeded in the immediate objective.

It is to be hoped that the nightmare remains just that: a nightmare.

Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Bernard Levin: the first of a three part series

A step back towards the centre of the universe

There is a theatrical chestnut about a historical play in which, amid the gadzooks and by-my-halidoms, a messenger rushes on to the stage crying "The Thirty Years War has broken out!" But the joke draws attention to a truth often overlooked: the tidy eras of history do not seem at all well-defined to those obliged to live through them. I doubt if a Roman shopkeeper in the dying Empire excused the shortage of fresh lentils to a complaining customer by saying "It's the Decline, sir", nor do I suppose that Wycheley, when filling in forms, gave his profession as "Restoration Dramatist". More to the point—to the point, that is, of our own civilization—the progress of the Ice Ages was so slow that nobody would ever have felt anything more dramatic than that the winters were getting worse. (Which, it is worth remarking, is what is being constantly said in Britain today.)

It is the same, surely, in these last days of the age of faith in materialism, technology, science and progress. It is difficult to see our world as a whole, and even harder to pick out those qualities that are common to all its parts. Yet the attempt must be made, if only because it may now be possible, for once in the world's history, to see what is happening even while it is doing so, and by drawing attention to it raise the hope, remote but real, of averting it.

> 'The assault on man's unique personality is the most characteristic and most sinister of tendencies of our day'

The assault on man's unique personality, which I take to be the most characteristic and the most sinister of the tendencies of our day, takes two principal forms. One is obvious; it is the increasing collectivization of life in all its aspects, including those which until our own day would have been unquestioningly regarded as areas in which the person must take precedence over the mass. These range from the trivial (but none the less significant on that account), like the actions of local authorities who compel their tenants to paint their front doors the same colour as all the other doors in the street, to the terrible, like the power entrusted to trades union officials (frequently with the unashamed connivance of employers) to prevent a man from ever again working at his trade if he leaves the union or for that matter behaves while in it with what is considered less than proper deference to the area secretary.

Once, as I say, individual choice was supreme over a vast range of elements of life in our pluralist society which are now collectivized; it is significant that whatever the nature of the collective wielding the power, and however powerless the individuals trapped in it are, the decisions are always said to be taken by those individuals, whereas in truth they are more and more rarely even taken on their behalf. And so far has this tendency and — worse — its acceptance gone, that to many the idea that there is no such thing as an abstraction called "society", but only the sum of the people in it, counted one by one, is quite meaningless.

This wing of the collectivist advance holds that man is no more than a collection of material needs and social impulses. His existence has come about through a random series of accidents so numerous that they constitute a discernible pattern, but not so meaningful as to imply a purpose either behind man or before him; his purpose has therefore to be supplied, and is to be found in his function as a single unit in a general purpose, of no individual significance but, when added to all the other units contained in the general purpose, providing a motive power for the vehicle.

It follows that man has nothing in him that cannot be found by a surgeon, measured by a psychometrist, or indeed ordered about by an official; philosophies which insist that man has something else, and even that man's purpose is to have it, to take responsibility for it, and to answer for the use of it, are romantic fallacies; the Crucifixion of Tintoretto consists of pigment applied two-dimensionally to canvas in such a manner as to convey an optical illusion of three-dimensionality, and Professor B. F. Skinner, despite the dreadful warning of his initials, is to be taken seriously.

On the other wing of the advancing collectivists are those who devalue man by asserting his indistinguishability from the brutes. (Some, like that eminent savant Mr John Aspinall, place man lower than the brutes.) Man has inborn aggressive instincts, together with dominant sexual, acquisitive and territorial drives; animals have these, too, from which it follows than man and ape are one. And just as, for those in the other column, Tintoretto is only paint, so for these a thousand monkeys, set at a thousand typewriters, would eventually by going through all possible random combinations of letters, produce the complete works of Shakespeare. These (the marchers, not the monkeys) naturally bow down to Dr Desmond Morris.

The collectivist drive is, of course, pushed on by those who seek to weld society into an instrument with a single handle, which they, or those on whose behalf they labour, would then wield. But it would be a dangerous mistake to believe that without such pressure the drive would lose its impetus; it has long since acquired a momentum of its own, that will requi[re] all the strength of those w[ho] oppose it to slow it down, [let] alone to halt and ultimate[ly] reverse it.

Those who seek to halt th[e] advance have little enoug[h] these days, to cheer and encou[r]age them, and it therefo[re] behoves each of us on findi[ng] such cheer, to communicate [the] news of it to the rest. All t[his] week I propose to practise su[ch] communication by discussi[ng] two books, each sent to me [by] its author, which seem to me [to] constitute between them a ve[ry] important and valuable sta[te]ment of the case for the pers[on] as opposed to the collecti[ve] and it will be a pleasure as w[ell] as a duty to signal their exi[st]ence to the many who m[ay] have been as unaware of th[em] as I was myself.

One is Glory, Jest and Ridd[le] by J. D. P. Bolton (Duc[k]worth); the other is King [of] the Castle, by Gai Eat[on] (Bodley Head). Readers w[ho] recognize Mr Bolton's title [as] the climax of Pope's Essay [on] Man, and who know the nurse[ry] rhyme from which Mr Eat[on] takes his, will also understa[nd] the subject-matter of bo[th] books without further instru[c]tion. For both books set out [to] put man back at the centre [of] the universe; but what mak[es] them so important is that t[he] intention is not conceived as [an] end in itself. Both Mr Bolt[on] and Mr Eaton believe that m[an] is at the centre of the univer[se] with a particular function [to] perform there, and that th[at] function is to assert that t[he] universe has a meaning, th[at] certain notable figures throug[h]out history have said what th[at] meaning is, that whatever t[he] language and thought in whi[ch] each of these thinkers h[as] clothed his argument, the arg[u]ment has a unity if the univer[se] itself does, and that it is op[en] to each of us, individually a[nd] in no other way, to heed, or [to] ignore, that argument.

As it happens, Mr Bolt[on] writes as a Christian of [a] Christian upbringing, Mr Eat[on] as a Muslim convert. I do n[ot] know whether either of the[m] knows the other or his bo[ok] (I would be glad to think th[at] these columns might effect [an] introduction), and in style a[nd] approach they are very diffe[r]ent; but not for a long tim[e] have I had before me o[ne] book, let alone two, offerin[g] such powerful support for t[he] philosophy which asserts th[at] man is neither an ape nor [a] machine, that what differe[n]tiates him from both is som[e]thing that is neither mind n[or] body but is nevertheless th[e] most important part of ma[n] and that that part has bee[n] responsible for all those man's achievements that are [of] any lasting significance [or] value, from the Gospels to t[he] G minor Symphony of Moza[rt] from altruism to the T[aj] Mahal, and from the charact[er] of Socrates to the ultima[te] triumph of freedom ov[er] tyranny. Tomorrow I shall tu[rn] to a detailed examination [of] these two books.

(To be continued)

Can Britain afford a deterrent?

Mrs Thatcher will travel to Washington on December 17, dreaming of the kind of present that even Father Christmas might find hard to provide. But she is unlikely to come away empty-handed. What she would really like from President Carter is an offer to sell Britain a new strategic missile at a price comparable to the bargain struck by Macmillan over Polaris in 1962.

What she can more realistically hope for is an American promise to do business at a cost which the Government feels it could just about afford.

Ministers questioned about the Polaris succession in the 1990s, argue patiently that their options remain open and that no decision is likely until next year. This would still give the Government ample time to finalize the deal before the presidential election — which could install a less amenable figure in the White House.

And by then the Americans might have made decisions of their own about their air-launched cruise missile which, together with a submarine-launched cruise missile, is among the options theoretically open to Britain.

But it is an open secret that the Ministry of Defence favours purchase of the Trident-1 or C-4 ballistic missile, which is the next generation of strategic deterrent for United States Navy submarines. Ballistic missiles can be more safely relied upon to reach their targets than cruise missiles—and submarines remain the least vulnerable platforms from which to fire them.

These are persuasive arguments for a country like Britain which can afford only one deterrent at a time. Moreover the Royal Navy has experience in operating such a system, and in collaborating with the Americans.

The present British deterrent consists of four 7,500-ton submarines, HMS Renown, Repulse, Resolution and Revenge, each of which is armed with 16 Polaris missiles. The A3 warheads, designed in Britain, deliver three separate packages of 200 kilotons—roughly 10 times the yield of the Hiroshima bomb—on a target up to 2,880 miles away. At any one time Britain has one, and perhaps two, boats on patrol.

The new package seen as a replacement system involves five submarines—which means a guaranteed two boats on patrol all the time—each equipped with perhaps 16 C4 missiles. The C4, however, has a range of more than 4,000 miles, and a theoretical accuracy of within 1,500 feet.

Moreover it has eight multiple independently-targeted re-entry vehicles (MIRVS) worth 100 kilotons each—which means, in effect, that each missile can strike eight quite separate targets.

This sounds like a lot of overkill for a country like Britain whose nuclear deterrent would be significant in only the most extreme circumstances. On the other hand, if Britain is to have a deterrent at all, it must be credible.

The addition of a fifth submarine and the huge multiplication in the number of targets which is promised by the introduction of MIRVs, simply increase the risks for any potential aggressor.

It has been argued that Polaris could be further refined, even after the completion of the current Polaris Improvement Programme, to maintain it as a credible deterrent in the next century. Had Labour been returned to power in the last election this is an option which Mr Callaghan, faced with left-wing opposition to a deterrent of any kind, might have found easier to take. But a new batch of submarines would be necessary anyway, and the Ministry of Defence argues that the difference in cost would not be all that great.

The Americans are due to phase out the last of their Polaris missiles in the 1980s anyway, so Britain might lose the back-up facilities which it now enjoys. In the long run it might be cheaper—and certainly simpler—to keep more or less in step with the American programme.

But can Britain afford a deterrent at all? The Trident-1 package, including the submarines and warheads, which would be built in Britain, would cost between £4,000m and £6,000m, spread over a period of 10 to 12 years.

Those in favour argue that even during the peak years of the programme it would absorb only 7 per cent of the annual defence budget. Those against point out that as a proportion of the procurement budget it would be far higher than that. So can Britain afford to spend so much upon a weapon that is unlikely ever to be used?

There is certainly a respectable case to be made out for spending what money Britain can afford, on conventional weapons instead—on perhaps another armoured division in the British Army of the Rhine, on improving Britain's air defences or on more warships for the Royal Navy. But it is debatable whether Britain could find the men to man many more conventional weapon systems than it has—even at a time of high unemployment.

The Royal Navy will have to think hard about finding the two crews necessary for a fifth ballistic missile submarine anyway. Nor are conventional weapons exactly cheap, and the Tornado aircraft programme for the RAF is actually more expensive than a Trident-1 package would be. Its proponents contend that as a last resort weapon to ensure, as far as one can, the integrity of the United Kingdom, the deterrent is the most cost-effective, single solution.

The British deterrent is committed to Nato, although in the unlikely event of a threat to Britain alone, it would be used as a national weapon. How far any British Prime Minister might feel prepared to invite national suicide for the sake of, say, Hamburg or Amsterdam, is one of those imponderables which one hopes will never be answered. The important point is that he might—and it is that uncertainty which makes deterrence work.

But it is probably the less rational fear of the unknown that has persuaded successive British governments to keep their strategic weapons in good shape. Britain has had a nuclear deterrent for so long that no one can accurately assess what would be the effect, if it unilaterally disarmed, on Britain's status, its technology and its feeling of security. The responsibility of replacing Polaris is easier for the Government to bear than the responsibility of changing direction.

Polaris: what next?

Mrs Thatcher will certainly fly to Washington with few doubts in her mind. Christmas seems an oddly inappropriate season in which to talk about nuclear weapons. But the Prime Minister would no doubt contend that she goes in a spirit of peace, and that she is heavily dependent upon American good will.

Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

That Blunt interview: a scoop is a scoop

A week ago today Mr Anthony Blunt was interviewed at the offices of The Times, and the reverberations are only beginning to subside. A few of our readers were apparently offended by reports of his reception at New Printing House Square, but most of the noise and heat was generated by Fleet Street.

We were accused of rigging the interview in order to defend the Establishment and much more. We were part of a cosy cover-up which had lasted 20 years. Worse, we gave the man smoked trout for lunch when the Daily Express claimed that it would not have given him a kipper. This was typical of Fleet Street's reaction to what is known in the business as a scoop, and some explanation is probably required.

A scoop, or exclusive story, is more than the spice of life for all born journalists, whether they write for The Times or the Daily Express. Most of them earn less than the production men who set and print their stories, but they carry on largely for two reasons. The first is the belief that the public has the right to know, and the second is the hope of scoring a scoop.

I must admit that after a life time of reporting for The Times the second reason is still as much a powerful compulsion as the first. It may seem an absurd case of arrested development, but this compulsion makes the difference between good and merely adequate journalism.

This explains the wild reaction of other national newspapers. They were scooped, and they knew it. They were scooped largely because I spent hours negotiating with Mr Blunt's representative; and unlike some of those who claimed to be morally outraged we did not offer to pay a penny for the interview.

There were no conditions. All Mr Blunt's representative asked was whether we could provide his client with some food. Then later he insisted that The Guardian participate in the interview. I was willing to ensure that his client got something to eat, and less happy about The Guardian, but half a scoop was better than none.

A second charge was that we were journalistic eunuchs, only too willing to allow Mr Blunt to twist truth round his little finger. Admittedly two of us were Cambridge men. Stewart Tendler, the Crime Reporter of The Times, is the son of an East End Jewish tailor, who went to a local grammar school and eventually to Downing College.

David Leigh of The Guardian, who went to Kings, had a similar background. He rarely wears a suit, and his reporting suggests that he is an anti-Establishment journalist. One of his recent scoops was the story on jury vetting.

I was born in London's East End, and had the signal honour of attending the Highwat elementary school opposite the No 10 gate of the old London docks and St George's central school in Cable Street before quitting to become a messenger at the age of 15. I allow that I had a wonderful start, but then we cannot all be born lucky.

I concede that we were polite during the interview. We invariably are and from experience we know that information cannot be bludgeoned out of a man such as Mr Blunt, or any other person for that matter. Of course, we did not get to the whole truth, whatever that may be. Journalists, and indeed philosophers, rarely do.

I would suggest, however, that our interview produced some interesting information. The man revealed himself, if only partly. I doubt that a Fleet Street "heavy" waving a cheque book—one publication was reported to have offered £50,000—could have done the job much better.

Finally, that smoked trout. When I first interviewed Mr Menachem Begin soon after he emerged from the underground in Tel Aviv in 1948 we ate gefiltefish, and later when I interviewed Mr Khrushchev we shared some pickled herring with the vodka. Arguably these two men were responsible f[or] more deaths than Mr Blunt, b[ut] as I said at the beginning of t[he] interview, I was not there to [sit] in moral judgment. I am [a] reporter whose job is to find o[ut] what really happened; a job, [I] might add, which is more impo[r]tant than moralizing.

That said, I was pleasant[ly] surprised to be served wi[th] trout. I had expected san[d]wiches, but fortunately M[r] Edward Heath was being ente[r]tained in an adjoining room a[nd] Paul, the steward, took pity [on] me.

The full Blunt story is yet [to] be published, but I have tw[o] observations to make. First, [it] is good to know that Fle[et] Street is still so competitiv[e]. We must be the only compet[i]tive industry in the countr[y]. Second, our readers should b[e] happy to know that in our 195[th] year The Times is still as live[ly] and news-conscious as in th[e] days of Thomas Barnes an[d] Willaim Howard Russell.

Louis Here[n]

LONDON DIARY

Secretaries seething in Parliament

While moling through Westminster I found MPs' secretaries seething. Hardworking, devoted and delightful, they are nevertheless the victims of parliamentary scroogery. They revealed to me their feelings for a small band of bon gentlemen who exploit the secretaries and the secretarial system. For their own protection the estimable ladies have a Black List of Bad MPs.

The scandalous facts are simple. Members can claim a £4,600 annual allowance for a secretary. Many of those who draw it, being decent chaps, use it all to pay secretaries a maximum of £3,800, with the balance going on an insurance stamp.

Some, not so decent, pay smaller salaries, trousering the difference. And a few scallywags have been known to take the allowance even though they have no secretary, or wife doing their secretarial work.

Secretaries want the allowance boosted so that they can get a fair wage. And they think MPs should be accountable: no secretary, no allowance.

As it happens, an increase is likely to be recommended before Christmas. But secretaries fear that Mrs Thatcher, having lost in the argument over MPs' salaries, will try to block an increase in allowances. They also fear that if MP-accountability is part of the proposal, some MPs will try to block it so that their gravy does not dry up.

Secretaries are ready to put down the collective foot. Militancy is strengthened by new secretaries who came in with the new Tory MPs. They were from the world of commerce and were horrified at the conditions of their Commons sisters: no recognition, no security, no pension, hard work, poor pay, absolute dependence on an MP's honour as an employer.

"Many are sweet, but some are pigs", I was told. Porcine members are on the black list. The names can be made known to any aspiring secretary and thus spare a nice girl a life of ill-paid wretchedness.

Tory Welsh

Five Tory councillors in South Wales now talk proper because Conservative Central Office has paid £100 for them to have a 10 weeks' elocution course.

Miss Katherine Edwards, their teacher, diagnosed grammar defects, dropped aitches and chronic Cardiff accents, certainly severe weaknesses in a party led by the lord high elocutioner herself.

Week after week, the Dai Doolittles were made by their young lady Higgins to stand at one end of a room, like men before a firing squad, and clear their vowels by reciting time and again:

"Father's car is a Jaguar, and Pa drives very fast. Castles, farms and draughty barns, we all go charging past."

The Conservatives paid for their men to have lessons because they wanted them to be better communicators. But is it not enough that the Welsh language bleeds, without the English undermining the fine old Cardiff tongue?

Teabags away

All sailing men know that the teabag is one of seagoing's banes. It's those perishing perforations. The problem is how to get the teabag to Davy Jones's locker after it has been dunked in a mug for infusion.

Many a skipper has been driven to Bligh-like rages and keelhaulish thoughts by the sight of a sludgy teabag's dripping trail across holystoned decks. The foul liquor stains glass fibre, and so strains friendships. Yacht crewing, being a close quarters experience, is not unakin to marriage in some respects and men may be maddened by idiosyncrasy.

This is why Yachting Monthly is putting editorial resources behind its Great Teabag Throwing Competition. The need is for a machine to eject teabags cleanly from cabin to sea; and, already, readers have submitted almost a score of devices, many of them ingenious variations of the ancient ballista. Mr Desmond Sleightholme, the editor, tells me there will be a grand shoot-off at St Katharine's Dock next year.

Teabag disposal by lavatory is rejected. Many a boat's lavatory would choke on a teabag. And only a lubber would suggest use of a teapot in which bags could be transported cleanly to gunwale. Teapots, like bicycles, umbrellas, high heels and spinnakers, have no place in a proper yacht, being essentially unseamanlike.

"Trout and traitors at The Times? God's teeth, what next? You should be flogged within an inch of your deaths." Wearying of such irascible buttonholing, I sought refuge in the Tower of London. Inevitably, thoughts turned.

I learnt that the last spy confined here was Joseph Jacobs, shot one dawn during the last war. "Hess was here for five days, but no one else has been confined since then", I was told. "Though I suppose we could find a place if we had to." One of the Yeoman warders said darkly: "In the old days they knew what t[o] do . . ." and gave a fearsom[e] meaning look, evoking shiver[y] images.

Incidentally, and apropos [of] Bluntgate, I wonder what is i[n] the mind of John Le Carré, th[e] man who has done more fo[r] moles in literature than an[yone] since Kenneth Grahame? I a[m] not the first to wonder. H[is] agent says there have bee[n] dozens of calls, and Mr L[e] Carré says he does not wa[nt] to speculate or be drawn int[o] discussion about a certai[n] current event.

Three point joint

Several people report they hav[e] fallen victim to a metri[c] atrocity. Certain supermarke[t] chains are marking goods i[n] pounds and decimals of [a] pound. For example, I hav[e] been sent a Sainsbury's labe[l] marking a joint of meat at 3.1[3]. Naturally enough this was take[n] to mean 3lb 13oz; although th[e] real weight is 3.13lb. There i[s], in small print, a note abou[t] this on the label. But the pra[c]tice is, nevertheless, misleadin[g] and I doubt that customers a[re] best served by it.

Trevor Fishloc[k]

THE TIMES
New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AT STAKE: 100,000 JOBS

week ago last Monday, Sir ichael Edwardes and senior embers of British Leyland's ard formally announced their cision to dismiss Longbridge nvenor Mr Derek Robinson on ounds of industrial misconduct. ace that time Sir Keith Joseph, e Industry Secretary, has cepted the resignations of Sir slie Murphy and his colgues at the National Enterse Board, which oversees itish Leyland's affairs, and s replaced them with a new m; many British Leyland car nts have either stopped proing vehicles or have had ir activities severely curled; Mr Terence Duffy, preent of Mr Robinson's union, threatened to sanctify the official actions taken against convenor's dismissal; and kesmen have indicated that Michael and his men might mselves resign if they could manage the company. To pt Sir Harold Wilson's wellembered phrase, a week can a long time in industry.

The reaction that has followed tish Leyland's decision was to expected. The sacking of so verful a trade unionist as Mr binson by so large and ubled an undertaking as Leyd is virtually without parallel recent industrial history. Yet all the heat the action has erated, it had become almost vitable. If British Leyland e to have a chance of suring, they had to make a nd against the increasing ength of militants within the ks of organized labour.

That the responsibility has en on the shoulders of Sir chael is not surprising. During stewardship at British Leyd, he has shown himself to a remarkably forthright and ermined man. Given the size the problem he has in restor- Britain's only remaining jor car producer to prosity, and his consequent ance on Government support, it could only be a matter of time before he was required publicly to demonstrate his determination to manage. The whole of the world car industry is facing a deep recession; even with total support the survival of British Leyland would be in serious doubt.

Many of Sir Michael's critics acknowledge this, but say he has chosen the wrong time and adopted the wrong tactics. Yet is there ever a right time, or a perfect tactical plan? According to British Leyland's statement a week ago, Mr Robinson was "warned explicitly in March, 1979, over similar acts of misconduct". Since that time the workforce has voted seven to one in favour of supporting the Edwardes's plan for resuscitating the organization, despite the fact that this involves works closures and large-scale redundancies.

In face of this overwhelming expression of support for Sir Michael by the employees, Mr Robinson and other members of the unofficial shop stewards' committee went ahead with the preparation and distribution of a pamphlet urging opposition to the plan and referring to workins and refusal to agree to job transferrence. Attempts to justify the pamphlet on the grounds of freedom of speech have been made, and yesterday some of Mr Robinson's supporters marched through the streets of Birmingham carrying placards which read: "Smash the Edwardes's plan". Why should British Leyland employ a man to smash the survival plan which has the overwhelming backing of their workers?

Today leaders of Mr Robinson's organization, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, will have to decide whether they will declare official the stoppages that have taken place in support of the Longbridge convenor. Mr Duffy, the president, is reported to have said that he expects "an affirmative reply" to the request for such action from the Birmingham West District Committee. If such a reply is given, the Transport and General Workers' Union, under the leadership of Mr Moss Evans, can be expected to follow suit.

It has been suggested that the AUEW was not given prior notice of Sir Michael's intention to sack Mr Robinson, and that this has irritated some of the more moderate leaders of that union. It would be surprising if the company did not take this precaution, but even if such a courtesy were not unofficially extended, the union's leaders would be wrong to let it influence them unduly in their deliberations.

The responsibility they face is a heavy one. If Sir Michael is compelled to take Mr Robinson back in either his official union capacity or in his unofficial role as chairman of the shop stewards' committee, there can be no doubt that he and several of his senior colleagues will resign: they will have no alternative. And if resignation is forced upon them, it is extremely unlikely that more taxpayers' money will be made available to support BL. Indeed it would destroy the Government's credibility if they bailed out British Leyland in these circumstances.

Thus, the issue before the AUEW executive is reasonably straightforward. Do they seek to uphold the trade union principle of "one for all and all for one", and thereby risk the virtual extinction of BL? Or do they consider the wishes of the majority of workers in that organization and seek a compromise solution? Will they opt to save one job—or 100,000? And do the trade unionists of the West Midlands want to lose their jobs—for good—in order to defend the militant who has done more than anyone else to destroy their company?

HONOURS BEFORE SPOILS

ere are three principal sons why the Prime Minister justified in restoring the tom of honours for political vices. The first is that it is ter to acknowledge openly at would otherwise be done irectly. It is more than a en years now since Sir old Wilson ostensibly ounced the custom. But iticians, and those who devote ch of their time to political vity, have continued to eive honours. When a ctice has to be justified by wing excessively subtle inctions, or by offering an lanation for a decision that little more than a socially eptable cover for the real son, it is wise to strip away pretence. If honours are in to be conferred for political vity, it is both right in iciple and prudent in ctice to say so.

The second reason why the ision is sensible is that it ild be absurd at a time when ours are distributed far more ely than in the past, so as to include as many forms of service to the community as possible, for those active in politics to be the one group to be deliberately excluded. To have pop stars and postmistresses but not politicians would be a public affectation.

But there is also a positive reason why it is desirable to give honours as a reward for political services. In almost every society it is necessary to have some form of reward for political service. For those who get to the top, fame may be a sufficient spur. A number may be moved by altruism alone, but it would be naive to suppose that this would be inducement enough for most of those engaged in politics. If there is no form of public honour available it is all too likely that rewards will be offered by giving responsibilities to those unfitted to bear them. An American would be given an embassy when an Englishman would have to be satisfied with a peerage or a knighthood. As a lubricant of the political system it is much better to have honours than spoils: honours are useful and harmless, and they arouse severe indignation only among those who make the mistake of treating them too seriously.

Mrs Thatcher went on to say under questioning in the Commons yesterday that she did not wholly exclude the possibility of creating new hereditary peerages. That is the correct formulation, if it is to be taken literally. It would be a mistake if hereditary creations were once again to become a frequent practice. That would not accord with the present state of public opinion, which is happy to have achievement rewarded but less happy to see public distinction being passed on automatically from one generation to the next. But there are exceptions to that rule, otherwise we would not have a hereditary Royal Family sustained by immense public approval. Hereditary peerages should be given in future in exceptional cases. They should not be wholly excluded, but they should not be the norm either.

THIRTY THREE YEARS SINCE NUREMBERG

Soviet eyes Herr Rudolph s is not a person but a bol. He was Hitler's uty until his mysterious ht to Scotland in 1941. He sentenced to life imprisonit by the war crimes unal in Nuremberg in 1946. aged 85 and in failing lth he remains the only oner in the custody of the wartime allies in Berlin. three western allies would to release him but the iet Union refuses.

The Russians see him as a bol of Nazi Germany and the nes that Hitler committed. is their surrogate Hitler. To him go would seem to them an act of forgiveness and getting. They are not ready this. Not only did they sufunder the Nazis to an extent ch is still not fully underd in the West (though cerily no more than they suffered under Stalin) but they still regard Germany as a potential danger. They pay close attention to the activities of tiny groups of neo-Nazis who still defend Hitler; they criticize the insufficient pursuit of Nazi crimes by today's courts; and they note the tendency among fairly respectable right-wing politicians to talk more of German losses than German crimes in the war. Above all, they feel they still need a residual or potential German threat to keep the Warsaw Pact together and to invoke in difficult times the spirit of "great patriotic war".

This mixture of genuine feeling and political expediency makes it very unlikely that they will agree to release Herr Hess. They would be releasing not just a sick, muddled and harmless old man but a living symbol of the enemy they still need and perhaps genuinely still fear. The three western allies are restrained from releasing him on their own (technically possible though difficult in a four-power prison) by their reluctance to disturb the delicate balance of four-power arrangements in Berlin. The Russians would retaliate, and nobody at the moment wants another Berlin crisis.

Probably, therefore, Herr Hess will have to continue to carry the burden of the history that he personifies, and since, like his former fellow prisoner, Albert Speer, he shows no signs of repentance, he commands only limited sympathy. Nevertheless, the western allies should continue to press for his release. He is a human being as well as a symbol. If the western world is true to its own values it will put the human being first. Herr Hess has now paid a sufficient price for his crimes.

Professor Blunt

From Mr R. A. Duff

Your leader of November 22 es the treachery of Blunt and fellows to "a flaw in Cambridge ralism"; to, in particular, its ilt of personal relations as a stitute for a moral code"; its jection of absolute standards"; its "disregard of standards of alty, of liberty and of truth". might wonder how, in that e, the "Cambridge liberals" ld have exhibited the intelleci virtues which you also ascribe hem; for such virtues themselves uire a concern for, and loyalty the truth: but if the attitudes "Cambridge liberals" bear any tion to the views of such people E. M. Forster and G. E. Moore, r account of them is a travesty. They did not recognise a duty of olute loyalty to one's country r is it clear to me that a democy should depend on such an olute loyalty): but they recoged and insisted on the *moral* uirements of friendship, of truth, d of the liberty which such values st involve. Forster's "notorious nark" does not express a personal d non-moral preference for ends over country (nor, incidenly, does it suggest that you should st betray your country and then y loyal to the friends with whom you betrayed it), but a moral view of friendship as the true locus of moral life and duty: what you misrepresent as a rejection of morality was rather a commitment to a particular set of moral values—values which neither justify nor permit a commitment to Soviet or totalitarian Marxism.

The culture which you wish to defend is itself informed by such values as these: and while there are serious moral problems about the ways in which such values may conflict with other obligations to one's country, your leader does nothing to advance their discussion.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. DUFF,
Department of Philosophy,
University of Stirling,
Stirling.
November 23.

From Professor D. N. MacCormick

Sir, A significant silence in the discussion of the Blunt affair has been that of the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General for Scotland, and of their predecessors in office. No one has even asked if they were consulted about the immunity granted to Professor Blunt.

The crimes he committed were, however, crimes against the whole United Kingdom, not against England and Wales only. If the immunity is deemed binding in relation to the Scots Courts, the Lord Advocate ought to have been party to it. (Or perhaps the idea is that nowadays, as in 1746, you can only *really* be prosecuted for treason in England anyway.)

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MacCORMICK,
78 Morningside Drive,
Edinburgh.
November 22.

Prayer Book language

From the Reverend Dr T. H. L. Parker

Sir, The excellence of the Book of Common Prayer has so far in your correspondence been made to hang on its cultural superiority. May at least one voice be heard to speak for the theology and religion of the Prayer Book?

Other people may get a Housman-like shiver down the spine under the impact of this piece of Tudor literature, but one man, at any rate, counts it a privilege and an ever dear delight to be allowed to worship in the unadulterated tradition of the reformed catholic Church.

Yours faithfully,
T. H. L. PARKER,
Reader in Theology and Dean of the Faculty of Divinity,
University of Durham.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reducing EEC farm spending

From Mr Stanley P. Johnson, Member of European Parliament, Isle of Wight and Hampshire East (Conservative)

Sir, The performance of the British Government in failing, at last week's EEC Budget Council, to vote for the cuts in EEC agricultural spending, particularly in the dairy sector, which had already been approved by the European Parliament, boggles the imagination. Here was the first concrete opportunity actually to do something about the "butter mountains" and so on. The reduction called for by the Parliament in its milk proposal was not large—some £180 million. But it was important. As your correspondent Michael Hornsby explained (November 26), the money would have been held in reserve and used subsequently to finance structural reforms in the dairy sector, reforms which would have been directed at the root causes, not merely the symptoms, of dairy surplus.

Britain, which has been pressing so hard for a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, stood to gain. The question of our budgetary contribution is inextricably linked to that of CAP reform. Europe stood to gain. A better balance of expenditure throughout the Community is in the general interest. The fact that the "Dankert" proposal to cut dairy funds attracted widespread sympathy in the European Parliament is evidence of this. British Euro-MPs, on both sides, worked hard to win support of colleagues on the floor and they succeeded.

In the Budget Council, the Parliament's amendment would have stood unless, under Article 203 of the EEC Treaty, it was overturned by a qualified majority. Britain only had to vote with Italy and the Netherlands and there would have been *no* qualified majority for the rejection.

Amazingly, Mr Nigel Lawson failed to cast Britain's vote in favour of a cut in agricultural spending. Italy and the Netherlands were left alone. The amendment fell. This "British U-turn on EEC farm policy", as you called it in your headline, dismayed our friends in Europe. And believe me, Sir, it will certainly dismay the Government's supporters in the country. I, for one, will no longer go to my constituency and loudly proclaim, as I have been doing, that the Government is committed to a reduction in EEC farm spending.

What are the reasons advanced for the U-turn? Your correspondent suggests two. The first is a perceived need to "placate" the French by not attacking the sacred cow of EEC agriculture at a time when the Dublin summit looms. Well, the proof of that pudding will be in the eating, but appeasement at any time is a poor substitute for policy. The second reason is more subtle and has to do with the powers of the European Parliament itself.

The Dankert amendment has suddenly made people realize in Whitehall and in Westminster, as well as the Quai d'Orsay and the Assemblée Nationale, that the Euro-Parliament has powers and that it is prepared to use those powers. What else, after all, were the European elections all about? But instead of this development being welcomed, we have seen a Pavlovian shock-horror reaction and a closing of the ranks by civil servants and their political masters. Mr Lawson's reported remarks after the EEC Budget Council that the Dankert proposal called into question "the constitutional balance between the institutions within the EEC" are, frankly, less than convincing.

I am not saying that the British Government should always support in Council the line taken by the majority of British Euro-MPs in the Parliament. Nor should the reverse apply. That would indeed make a nonsense of the "constitutional balance between the institutions". What I am saying is that here was an occasion where, amazingly, Britain's larger interests happened to coincide with Europe's. And the British Government, for reasons of short term political expediency, fluffed it.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY JOHNSON,
European Parliament,
Strasbourg.
November 26.

Cracking the code

From Mr Eric Wigham

Sir, The Department of Health and Social Security have evidently taken great care to enable old men and women to understand the amount of pension paid after the increase of November 12. With the "payable order", which my wife receives by post, was enclosed a slip which informed her that from that date the components of pensions would be increased by the following percentages: BC, BCI, DEP 19.5%, IVA, AA, GRB, AC, ACI, PUGMPI 17.5%.

The key to these abbreviations, the slip stated, is provided on the reverse of the payable order. This key, though it does not offer an explanation of BC, BCI, GRB or PUGMPI, provides much illuminating information, for instance that AC means Additional Component, ACI Additional Component Increments, GAC Guaranteed Additional Component and ACP Additional Component Payable.

This is particularly helpful because the last two do not appear on the slip. Others which do not appear on the slip are B (Basic Component), BI (Basic Component Increments)—which must surely be like the BC and BCI of the slip—G (Graduated Pension), GMP (Graduated Minimum Pension), A (Age Addition), GMPI (Graduated Minimum Pension Increments) and OWN ENT (Married Women's Own Entitlement).

The PUGMPI is explained on the slip as the entitlement to extra guaranteed minimum pension earned by deferring retirement to after minimum pension age.

Many pensioners must be grateful that the Department has made things so crystal clear.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. WIGHAM,
Link View, The Avenue,
West Wickham,
Kent.

Mr Jenkins and the political centre

From Mr William Shepherd

Sir, Roy Jenkins' Dimbleby Lecture was a powerful piece. That a great number of people are fed up with confrontation politics is undoubted: what is less certain is the means by which a Social Democratic Party could be established here. The Conservative and Labour Parties have presently moved towards their extremes; the Liberal Party is generally discredited; and there would be little, if any, prospect of either of the major parties volunteering proportional representation.

Thus we are faced with the distressing situation that, although a majority of the electorate wants to abandon the politics of confrontation, and although there is a large measure of bipartisan opinion even in the present Parliament, there is little hope of breaking the bonds and forming an effective new party. The formidable obstacle of the reactionary local associations and the problems of the allocation of broadcasting time would be immense barriers.

Such a new party might have come into existence had it not been for North Sea Oil, since the catalyst of disaster could have precipitated it. Now one is driven to the conclusion that, if we are to have change, it must come from within the Labour Party, for it is the Labour left which is the most dangerous, disruptive and divisive force in British politics. The Conservative right is, as it always was, distinguished only by its stupidity.

The Labour Party's interests, and certainly the national interests, would have been well served by the party standing up to its Marxist rump many years ago; if the Labour Party is to make a real contribution to our recovery, it should take this action now. Shorn of its extremist left, it could attract so many left and centre Tories, inside and outside Parliament, as to effect a significant change in the present parties.

After 21 years in Parliament as a Conservative, I am a firm believer in a new Social Democratic Party, but I must stress the dangers of overstating the benefits which would flow. If the trade unions remain totally uninterested in improving our efficiency and continue to demand large annual wage increases unmatched by productivity, there is nothing that can save our economy from further, and even accelerating, decline.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM SHEPHERD,
77, George Street, W1.
November 23.

From Lord McNair

Sir, It was a speech by Jo Grimond, delivered in the Albert Hall in 1957, which activated me as a Liberal. *Mutatis mutandis*, it was almost identical to Roy Jenkins's Dimbleby Lecture, with the essential difference that Grimond's was a prognosis of the damage our rigid party and electoral systems would do, if not corrected in time, whereas Jenkins was able to look back as a historian on the damage already done.

I hope Liberals will not waste time and emotion in regretting that Roy Jenkins did not see the light in 1957. Better, surely, to welcome this distinguished support for what we have been saying for so long, to hope that it will spread, and to work all the harder for changes which will enable people to vote positively for what they want, instead of negatively against the lesser of two evils.

I am, Sir,
Yours,
McNAIR.
House of Lords.
November 23.

From Mr John Campbell

Sir, At last, Mr Jenkins has said what he obviously should have said 10 years ago. But then, of course, he still entertained ambitions capable of fulfilment within the two-party tyranny which he now, from the sidelines, condemns. (Rather similarly Lord Scanlon, in retirement, says he favours single-industry unions. Did he ever say so when it mattered?) Welcome though Mr Jenkins's belated revelation is, we will see no movement until there are some braver souls prepared to raise their voices while they still have hopes and influence to put at hazard within the present system. Perhaps, however, they will venture to his standard, if he will only plant it firmly.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CAMPBELL,
35, Ladbroke Square, W11.

From Mr Brian Parkyn

Sir, As a former MP I have always opposed a change in the electoral system, that is until last night. Roy Jenkins's brilliant and relevant Dimbleby Lecture has converted me. I wonder how many former and indeed present MPs have been similarly converted?

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN PARKYN,
9 Clarendon Square,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.

From Mr Nikolas C. Hills

Sir, Until now, I believed that Roy Jenkins was the best Prime Minister we never had. Now, I believe that he is the best Prime Minister we will have.

Yours faithfully,
NIKOLAS C. HILLS,
35 Turner Road,
Walthamstow, E17.

Fees to overseas students

From The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Southampton

Sir, The letter signed by the Master of Balliol and two of his colleagues which you printed last week (November 15) and today's editorial (November 19) are encouraging signs that the decision to charge "economic" fees to overseas students at British universities may now be discussed in your columns. Understandably, politicians are not interested in it; Members of Parliament of the two largest parties have been ignoring the issue since it first surfaced 10 years or so ago, probably because they believe that their constituents do not like the idea of spending public money on students anyway, let alone students from other countries. So, Sir, the universities may welcome your reappearance, though the tone of your editorial may reduce the warmth with which they do so. And there is much more to be said than might appear so far.

First, all universities know that whatever may be said about the motives and aims of the fees decision (and I hope other correspondents will take that up) the instrument is appallingly crude. The Government is setting out to prune roses with an axe—and a blunt one. The undefined consequences must go further than you suggest. Not only will universities be affected in vastly different ways: even within a single university the recruitment of overseas students to individual departments can vary between those in which it is a rarity and others whose overseas students make up half of their intakes. The effect of the fees decision on structures marked by such disparities is to make nonsense of past planning and recruitment and to waste academic and financial resources. No doubt the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the University Grants Committee will press ministers to recognize these facts, but they must also be widely apprehended by the public. It may be that the parents of potential students are now going to object to the possibility—a real one—of closing some universities and departments but they need encouragement to do so. They have not had it so far.

A more important topic is the additional evidence this decision gives of the general attitude of those in authority towards the universities. To be blunt, we have now had years of being messed about by central decisions which pay scant attention to our needs, let alone our views. Financially, we now live hand to mount; nearly six months into this financial year, we still do not know what our income from central funds will be. The uncertainties arising from the overseas student decision have now been added to this. Yet universities must plan, at the least, for a three year period—the academic life of the normal first degree student—if they are to plan effectively. Such a disregard of the universities' real position is not only wasteful and irrational, it is also arrogant.

To have this brought into the light and discussed seems to me to be of more fundamental importance even than the decision on overseas student fees. I have no confidence that present (or past) ministers are (or were) aware of the realities of university planning, or even of the true nature of the universities and their needs. Perhaps the question of overseas student fees can lead to a consideration of the steady decline in the capacity of the University Grants Committee to serve as a cushion between government and the universities and of the growing feeling in recent years that the universities have often been talking to a brick wall. Public awareness of this trend is our best hope for reversing it.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. M. ROBERTS,
Vice-Chancellor,
The University,
Southampton.
November 19.

A site for Chelsea College

From Lord Chalfont, and others

Sir, We understand that the Secretary of State for the Environment is currently considering representations about the future of the former site of the College of St Mark and St John in Chelsea. He has been asked to approve a proposal by the GLC that they should sell the site to Chelsea College, part of the University of London, at the district valuer's price in the face of considerable pressure for the site to be sold on the open market to the highest bidder.

We can appreciate that in the present financial climate, local authorities may need to obtain all the extra money they can, and it might be thought that the present cutback in university finance would remove the need for new college accommodation. However, even in the present situation there must be priorities.

Even if the matter is seen purely from a financial viewpoint, the acquisition of the site by Chelsea College can be justified: the College would pay for the purchase by selling a site south of the river, and hence no cost would fall on the taxpayer. It can moreover be shown, and these figures have been accepted by the DES and the Treasury, that over the next few years the running costs of the St Mark and St John site would be less than those of the current scattered annexes of the College, and there would therefore be a net financial gain to the taxpayer.

We would also suggest that, even in these difficult times, some concern must surely be given to the historical heritage of such sites as this. Its use goes back to the time of Sir Thomas More, it played a vital part in the introduction of education to all classes in the country in the last century, and it now stands as an "Oxbridge in the heart of London"; we believe very strongly that this tradition should be preserved, especially now that an urgent educational need for it has been demonstrated.

We appreciate that the Government is trying to introduce a new economic policy in which market forces have much stronger weight than before, but we would suggest that this is one case where other national needs have clear priority.

We would also like to point out that the site was taken away from educational use (for a motorway development) in anything but a free market—in fact under threat of compulsory purchase: is it far to change the rules in the middle of the game and insist that market forces now determine its future?

Yours faithfully,
CHALFONT,
ELIZABETH LONGFORD,
RUSHEEN WYNNE-JONES,
OSBERT LANCASTER,
JOHN BETJEMAN,
ELIZABETH CAVENDISH,
16 Chelsea Embankment, SW3.

Discriminating by social class

From Professor Charles Wilson, FBA

Sir, Your Education Correspondent reports (November 16) that Mr Kinnock has found "a new way" for the Labour Party to attack independent schools, save public money and rally public support. The proposal is to victimize children whose parents send them to maintained schools by making them ineligible for student grants when the time comes for university.

Labour has always claimed that its education policy represented "social justice". It has not hitherto sunk to the level of blackmailing parents by threatening to push their children into the firing line. Does Labour now propose to adopt what is a standard trick of totalitarian regimes?

Before they decide in favour they should ponder the case of racial discrimination. Here they have consistently supported penalties against discrimination. Amongst the basic justifications for such penalties is the instinctive feeling that natural justice demands protection against victimization for something that is in no way the responsibility of the individual. Neither are the circumstances or actions of a child's parents in any way the responsibility of the child. There is not the slightest justification for discrimination rooted in doctrines of class. A just society should reject both and no one who imposes such discrimination should be surprised if similar penalties are not imposed for the one as for the other.

So, far from rallying public support, this contemptible dodge to promote class hatred by victimizing the innocent will alienate it still further from Labour policy on education.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WILSON,
European University Institute,
Badia Fiesolana,
Via Roccettini,
Florence.
November 17.

NEB's accountability

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, I do not think that, if Sir Leslie Murphy understood how the Comptroller and Auditor General actually works, there would be very much in dispute between us. I certainly do not wish to suggest that the National Enterprise Board should not also be subject to audit by commercial auditors. Indeed, it is essential that it should be.

But this does not exclude audit by the Comptroller. Many bodies are subject to both. The Civil Aviation Authority, which spends only a small fraction of the public money spent by the NEB is a case in point. But the Comptroller's audit brings the body concerned within the ambit of the Public Accounts Committee.

That body summons the Accounting Officer, in the case of the NEB that would normally be the chairman, to give oral evidence supported by anyone he wishes to bring with him on any matter on the accounts which appears to demand this. An effective probe takes place into the more important, or difficult issues.

The outcome of this appears in a Report to the House of Commons, on which an effective debate can be staged on the floor of the House. I welcome and agree with Sir Leslie's proposal of an annual debate. But all experience shows that such a debate simply on the basis of accounts, on which no one but the minister concerned has been able to ask questions, does not get very far. But on the basis of a report, and perhaps a growl, by Parliament's own watchdog, which has been able to ask questions, it can be very effective indeed.

I hope that if the Government comes to the conclusion for some reason that it must keep the NEB in any form, it will allow the Comptroller to examine its accounts. For *pace* Sir Leslie, where public spending is concerned responsibility to a minister is NOT the same as answerability to Parliament.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.
November 26.

Wearing a buttonhole

From Mrs Joy Hadfield

Sir, May I offer a little comfort to Dr Patrick Cross on his disappointed report (November 16) that he had failed to find, on the day of your welcome return, anyone wearing a buttonhole. If he had been breakfasting in Woodbridge on November 13 he would have seen the originator of the correspondence, John Hadfield, getting down to his boiled egg adorned with the very last rose of summer.

Yours faithfully,
JOY HADFIELD,
2 Quay Street,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.
November 18.

Dressed as sheepmeat

From Mr Maurice Rosslyn Ferrill

Sir, Surely it's not the French who are being awkward, it's we British who are trying to be too clever! We import New Zealand lamb, give our sheep farmers subsidies, then expect the French to spoil their meat market by importing our lamb!

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE ROSSLYN FERRILL,
13 Gunthorpe Road,
Lowdham,
Nottinghamshire.
November 21.

A test for jurors

From Mr W. T. Blunt

Sir, In your leader today (November 20) you advocate a literacy and comprehension test for potential jurors.

But who would be daft enough to pass?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. T. BLUNT,
1 Barliath,
Minard,
By Inveraray,
Argyll.
November 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

November 26: The Queen this evening honoured with her presence a Royal Variety Performance in aid of the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund which was given at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Mrs John Dugdale, *Mr William* Heseltine and Lieutenant-Commander Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, left Heathrow Airport—London this evening in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight for Amsterdam, where His Royal Highness will chair a Working Party of the International Assembly of National Confederations of Sport.

Wing Commander Antony Nicholson is in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today attended a Service of Dedication at Glasgow Cathedral.

Her Royal Highness was later entertained at luncheon by the Lord-Lieutenant (The Right Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow) at the City Chambers.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon opened Pollok Shopping Centre.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by The Hon Mrs Wills and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 26: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the National Army Museum, this morning attended a Meeting of the Council held at the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall.

A service of memorial and thanksgiving for the life of Patrick Woodbine Parish will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, December 6, at noon.

Birthdays today

The Very Rev E. F. Carpenter, 69; Sir Rex Cohen, 73; Mr Leonard Cutts, 75; Admiral Sir Ian Easton, 62; Lord Howard de Walden, 67; Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Howard-Vyse, 74; Viscount Lambert, 70; the Marquess of Lansdowne, 67; Lord Trevelyan, 74; Mr Ernie Wise, 54.

Today's engagements

The Queen holds investiture, 11.
The Prince of Wales visits British Gas Corporation's on-line inspection centre, Cramlington, Northumberland, 9.15; visits British shipbuilders' Pallion Shipyard, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, 1.
Princess Anne opens Raby Hall Community for autistic people, Bromborough, Wirral, 11.30.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother presents long service badges to Queen's nurses of the Queen's Nursing Institute, St James's Palace, 3.
Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, patron, East Africa Women's League, attends general meeting, Holy Trinity Church House, Knightsbridge, 3; later opens Elizabeth T. Greenshields Memorial Foundation art exhibition, Canada House, 5.20.
Princess Alexandra attends *Evening News* British film awards, New London Theatre, Drury Lane, 7.35.
London Contemporary Dance Theatre: The Annunciation/Troy Game/Songs, Lamentations and Praises, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue.
Lectures: Finch Lecture: Ambrose of Milan—the Unity of Prayer and Action, by the Rev Dr Andrew Lenox-Conyngham, St Margaret Pattens Christian teaching centre, Eastcheap, 1.10; Shakespeare and the Dark Lady, by Dr A. L. Rowse, Barn Theatre, Dartington, 8.
Memorial Service: Mr L. Kenyon, St Bride's, Fleet Street, 12.30 pm.

25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday, Nov 27, 1954

Paris, Nov 26.—Though General de Gaulle's staff will neither confirm nor deny the story, there is every reason to believe a report in a Paris newspaper this evening to the effect that he recently received the Russian ambassador in Paris, Mr Vinogradov. The meeting, which apparently took place at Colombey les Deux Eglises, the general's home in the Haute Marne, was said to be at the ambassador's request. The event is naturally full of interest for General de Gaulle, who as head of the French Government signed the Franco-Soviet treaty in 1944, is known to believe strongly that no chance should be lost of sounding the Russians about their readiness to come to a new understanding on east-west relations. General de Gaulle is to make an important speech on December 4 and already the prophets are at work foreseeing that he will call for a serious approach to Moscow before—and not after, as M Mendès-France would have it—the ratification of the new agreements on Germany. If he does indeed take that line the effect upon his former followers in Parliament could be such that the ratification prospect would be, if not permanently endangered, at least made a good deal more difficult.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain H. L. A. Macdonald and Miss D. A. Bell Davies
The engagement is announced between Hamish Macdonald, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, younger son of Major and Mrs L. H. Macdonald, of Tan House Farm, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, and Daphne, younger daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Lancelot and Lady Bell Davies, of Villa dei Ciliegi, Via Appia Pignatelli 448, Rome, Italy.

Mr C. M. James, RN and Miss G. Holt
The engagement is announced between Surgeon Sub-Lieutenant Christopher Michael James, only son of Mr and Mrs M. James, of The Olde House, Rearsby, Leicestershire, and Gillian, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. J. Holt, of Bexley, Kent.

Dr K. K. Sethia and Miss R. A. Alden
The engagement is announced between Krishna, second son of the late B. L. Sethia and of Mrs J. Sethia, of St James, Barbados, and Rosemary, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Alden, of Old Boars Hill, Oxford.

Mr N. J. Shepherd and Miss R. J. Stebbing
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Shepherd, of Marygate, York, and Joy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kean Stebbing, of Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

Mr G. M. H. Mills and Miss A. C. Spicer
The engagement is announced between Hallam, elder son of Major-General and Mrs Giles Mills, of The Queen's House, HM Tower of London and of Leeland House, Twyford, Hampshire, and Alison, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Spicer, of 8 Swan Street, Osney Town, Oxford, and Salt Mill House, Fishbourne, Chichester.

Mr D. A. Oldridge and Miss C. E. Johnston
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Oldridge and of Mrs Bernard Oldridge, of Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Johnston, of St John's Wood, NW8.

Mr T. C. Taylor and Miss C. A. Hurst
The engagement is announced between Timothy Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs N. G. H. Taylor, of Burcombe, Wiltshire, and Carole Anne, daughter of Mrs I. Hurst and the late Mr M. J. Hurst, of Bedford.

Mr S. J. K. Wheeler and Miss V. M. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Stuart John Kennedy, only son of Mr and Mrs L. S. Wheeler, of Claygate, Surrey, and Valerie May, daughter of Mrs M. R. Campbell, of Glasgow, Strathclyde, and the late Rev K. M. Campbell.

Mr P. W. D. Way and Miss C. M. Chambers
The engagement is announced between Paul William David, son of the late Mr W. E. Way and of Mrs V. M. Way, Porchfield, Isle of Wight, and Carolyn Mary, only daughter of Major and Mrs Basil Chambers, Fairwarp, Sussex.

Mr D. C. Wilson and Miss M. T. I. Flood
The engagement is announced between Duncan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Wilson, of Slima, Malta, and Marie-Thérèse, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs John Flood, of Priory Lodge, Roehampton, SW15.

Marriages

Mr R. D. Kegerreis and Miss P. St C. James
The marriage took place on Friday, November 23, 1979, at St George's Church, Campden Hill, between Mr Robert Duncan Kegerreis, son of Dr and Mrs Robert J. Kegerreis, of Rockafield House, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, United States, and Miss Penelope St Clair James, younger daughter of the late Dr and Mrs W. L. James, of Jersey, Channel Islands. The Rev J. M. V. Wilmington officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her godfather, Dr M. L. Walt. Dr G. R. Edwards was best man.

A reception was held by the bride's sister, Mrs Martin Garthwaite.

Dr D. G. H. Patey and Miss D. A. Harding
The marriage took place in London on October 26 of Dr Geoffrey Patey and Miss Daphne Harding.

Luncheons

Royal Over-Seas League
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the guests at luncheon yesterday of the *Royal Over-Seas League* central council at Over-Seas House.

Air Marshals' Club
Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, presided at the autumn luncheon of the Air Marshals' Club, held yesterday at the RAF Club. Among those present were:
Marshals of the RAF Sir Dermot Boyle, Sir William Dickson, Sir John Grandy and Sir Thomas Pike; Air Chief Marshals Sir Denis Barnett, Sir Hugh Constantine, Sir Kenneth Cross, Sir Walter Dawson, Sir Alfred Earle, Sir Peter Fletcher, Sir Lewis Hodges, Sir Edmund Hudleston, Sir Peter Le Cheminant, Sir David Lee, Sir Douglas Lowe, Sir Walter Merton, Sir Rex Roe, Sir Denis Smallwood, Sir Augustus Walker and Sir Neil Wheeler.

Bakers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were guests of the Bakers' Company at an election dinner held last night at the Mansion House. The outgoing Master, Mr Charles W. Judge, presided, assisted by his Wardens, Mr John Payne (Master-elect), Sir Charles Taylor, Mr Frank Taylor and Mr David Goble. Other guests included:
The Bishop of Truro, Lord Justice Eveleigh, masters of other livery companies and heads of the various London and United Kingdom bakery trade and benevolent associations.

Dinners

European-Atlantic Group
The European-Atlantic Group held a dinner last night at the Waldorf Hotel. Sir Frank Roberts was in the chair, and the other speakers were Dr Martin Hillenbrand, director of the Atlantic Institute in Paris, Lord Layton and Mr Nuri Birgi, President of the Atlantic Treaty Association. Others present included:
The Belgian Ambassador, the Ambassador of Luxembourg, the Turkish Ambassador and Mme Astroglu, Lord Banks, Sir Geoffrey and Lady de Freitas, Sir John Rodgers, Sir James Bowker, Sir David and Lady Lidderdale, Sir John and Lady Peel, Lady Roberts, Mrs M. Hillenbrand, Brigadier Kenneth Hunt and Mrs Elma *Dangerfield*.

Reception

Wells of Mayfair
A reception to celebrate 150 years of tailoring was held at Wells of Mayfair, 47 Maddox Street, W1, yesterday evening. Admiral Sir Charles Madden proposed the toast to the firm, to which the chairman, Mr John Wells, responded. The Lord Mayor of Westminster was among the many guests.

Service reception

University of London Contingent, OTC
Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Thorne, Commanding Officer, and officers and officer cadets of the London University contingent, Officers' Training Corps, held their annual cocktail party in the officers' mess yesterday. The principal guests were:
The Hon A. Berry, MP, Mr B. Hayhoe, MP, Mr K. Speed, MP, Mr G. Pattie, MP, Mr G. Finsberg, MP, Mr A. Buck, QC, MP, and Colonel A. F. Niekirk.

Former bishop engaged: The Right Rev Kenneth J. Woollcombe, aged 55, former Bishop of Oxford, and his fiancée, Deaconess Juliet Dearmer, at Church House yesterday after the announcement of their engagement.

Yugoslav National Day event dropped

The Yugoslav embassy regrets to announce that, in view of solidarity and contribution of all available funds for the speediest possible reconstruction of the parts of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro which were devastated in the catastrophic earthquake last April, this year the traditional Yugoslav National Day (November 29) reception will not take place.

New headmaster for St Bees School

The Governors of St Bees School, Cumbria, announce that because of the impending retirement of Mr G. W. Lees they have appointed Mr M. T. Thyne to be headmaster from September 1, 1980.

Mr Thyne, who is married with two sons, was educated at The Leys School, Cambridge, and at Clare College, Cambridge, where he graduated in natural sciences. He is at present a housemaster at Oundle School. Mr Lees has been headmaster since 1963.

Latest appointments

The following to be Deputy Lieutenants for the County of Northampton:
The Countess of Birkenhead, Christian Mary Lady Hesketh, Major J. M. Fearfield, the Marquess of Northampton, Capt John Macdonald-Buchanan and Cdr L. M. M. Saunders Watson, RN.

The following officers of the Bakers' Company were elected yesterday for the ensuing year: Master, Mr John Payne; Upper Warden, Sir Charles Taylor; Second Warden, Mr Frank H. Taylor; Third Warden, Mr David Goble; Under Warden, Mr Rex C. Joseph.

Inner Temple

The following scholarships, grants and prizes have been awarded:
Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Scholarship of £2,000: David Hodge; Inner Temple Scholarship of £3,000: Ian Partridge; £1,500: Mathew Vafidis; £1,000: W. H. N. Blakemore and J. P. Burdett. Inner Temple Grants: £1,400 each: M. A. Copping, P. L. Taylor. £1,200 each: Miss K. L. Drucker, J. A. Hamey, Miss P. Lynch, Miss J. E. M. Miller, Miss Daphne Romney, R. M. C. Webster; £1,000 each: P. G. Meredith, S. Shapiro; £750 each: S. J. Ashurst, J. J. Harhord, Miss D. A. Sherwin; £550 each: G. L. Aldous, G. R. Ayers, T. H. Caswell, M. L. Harrison, £500: H. D. R. Hood: £250: K. A. Mitchell. Benefactors' scholarships: Frank and Burreas Gahan scholarship of £250: W. H. N. Blakemore and J. P. Burdett. Ashworth scholarships of £300: P. G. Devine, H. J. Lack; Yarborough-Anderson scholarships of £100 a year for three years: S. V. P. O'Leary, D. R. Thakerar, Miss A. M. Wicherek; Basil Nield scholarship of £200: M. A. Copping; Neville Laski scholarship of £200: P. L. Taylor; Cecilie Yahuda scholarship of £200: A. A. Jafferjee; Philip Teichman scholarship of £150: S. V. P. O'Leary; Profumo scholarship of £105: J. P. Burdett; Geoffrey Veale scholarship of £100: A. A. Jafferjee; Paul Methven scholarship of £75: J. P. Burden.

Merchant Venturers

The Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol has elected the following officers:
Master, Mr M. A. Anson; Senior Warden, Mr Andrew Breach; Junior Warden, Mr J. A. S. Burn; First Assistant, Mr A. S. Hooper (retiring Master); members of the standing committee, Mr J. C. G. Hill, Mr J. G. M. Baker, Mr J. A. Gordon, Mr Richard Hill, Mr J. L. Eberle, Mr T. Lloyd Robinson, Mr J. D. P. Stirling, Mr C. W. Thomas and Mr David Tudway Quilter.

Latest wills

Mr Reginald John Herbert Badgery, of Harold Wood, Essex, who left £85,514 net, bequeathed all his property to the Salvation Army.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid; tax not disclosed):
May, Mr Roy George Levett, of Offham, Kent .. £459,596 net.
Margolis, Mr Woolf, of Sussex Square, London .. £373,295 net.
Lishman, Mr Arthur, of Harrogate .. .. .. £215,591.
Treble, Mr Lewis Sydney, of Croydon .. .. £259,406 net.
Holmes, Mr Robert, of Dorking £240,331

Cathedral fund nears target at St Albans

By a Staff Reporter

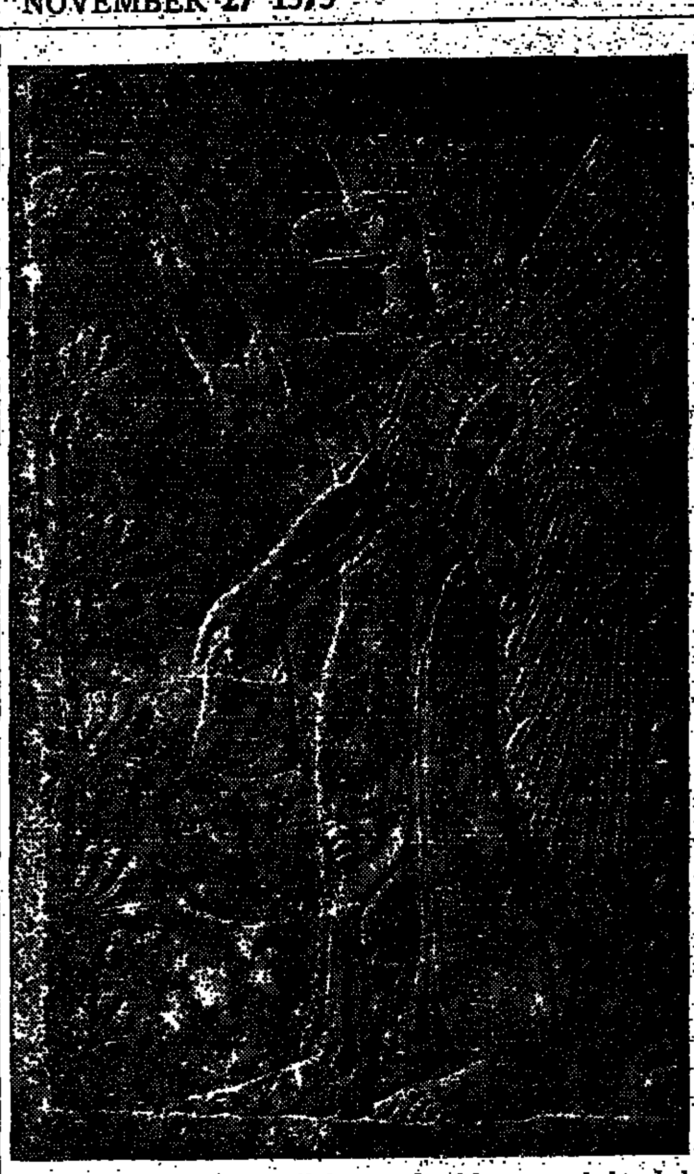
An appeal to raise £1m to restore the fabric of St Alban's Cathedral and build a new chapter house is nearing its £750,000 target given or pledged by Christmas. The immediate overall target is £1,225,000, of which the trustees are making £225,000 available.

About £625,000 is required for the immediate restoration programme, and £600,000 for the first chapter house since the original was destroyed in the sixteenth century.

It was in the year 209 that Alban earned his eventual sainthood by sheltering a persecuted priest, for which he was executed. The first primitive church was replaced by the present Norman abbey, begun by Paul of Caen in 1077, with Roman bricks salvaged from Verulamium.

The biggest task is the releading of the nave the longest in England to stop persistent leaking. Other priorities include restoring glazing on the nave clerestory and tower, replacement of decaying stonework and refurbishing the Victorian west front.

Excavations last year revealed the bones of 15 monks and abbots, including, it is believed, the father of the only British Pope, Adrian IV. These were reburied in the sanctuary at a special service last week.



An Assyrian gypsum relief carved with an eagle-headed deity and dating from the ninth century BC, for sale at Sotheby's on December 4.

Assyrian relief carvings of winged deities for sale

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Two superb Assyrian relief carvings of winged deities from the palace of the Assyrian King Ashurnasirpal II, who reigned from 883 to 859 BC, are to be sold at Sotheby's on December 4. Assyrian reliefs of royal origin seldom come on the market; they are expected to fetch about £250,000.

The export of works of art of that importance would not now be permitted. Such was not the case, however, in 1853, when young Lord Sandon, just down from Oxford, visited Nimrud as part of a tour he was making of the Middle East with Lord Carnarvon. Lord Sandon was charmed with the reliefs and carried them home. He had them embedded in two walls of an alcove off his conservatory at Sandon Hall, Staffordshire.

"Financial stringency" was the reason given yesterday by the present Lord Sandon, chairman of International Westminster Bank, for the sale. His father, Lord Harrowby, lives at Sandon Hall and has agreed to the sale.

One relief measures 47in by 52½in and depicts the upper half of a deity with a helmeted human head, flowing beard, and eagle's wings. It is carved with superb precision; the beard appears almost like knitting. He wears animal head bangles on his arms, again marvellously carved, and has three daggers, one with a horse head terminal, stuck into his belt.

The second relief measures 42¼in by 26¾in and is a full length depiction of a deity with human body, eagle head and wings. He is depicted standing in profile by a sacred tree.

Archaeology report

Wells: Saxon discoveries

By Norman Hammond
Archaeological Correspondent

Below the cemetery, which Excavations at Wells Cathedral have shown that part of the demolished Anglo-Saxon cathedral survives, including what appears to be a massive crypt, and that the Saxon building lay south of the present cathedral and on a different alignment. A linear set of structures, including a holy well, the Saxon cathedral and its Lady Chapel, a western atrium and the town market place beyond, is thought to have existed, paralleling similar linear plans at Winchester and Glastonbury.

The discoveries have been made in an area called The Camery, lying to the south of the present chancel and east of the cloister, and result from work carried out to lower the ground surface to improve drainage; the excavations have been carried out on behalf of the Department of the Environment by the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS), under the direction of Dr Warwick Rodwell, a specialist in church archaeology. The work began in 1978 and was completed this summer.

The first structures encountered were the remains of the great chantry built by Bishop Stillington in 1477-86, a late Gothic fan-vaulted building projecting from the east side of the cloister; it was demolished for its lead in 1552-53 after losing its endowment under the 1547 Chantries Act. This chapel and an earlier one demolished in 1477 had been found in an earlier excavation in 1894 by Edmund Buckle, the cathedral architect, and it was clear from Buckle's plans that the earlier building was aligned much farther towards the north. It was known from documentary sources to have been the "Lady Chapel by the Cloister" and in 1909 W. H. St John Hope suggested that it had been a final survival of the Anglo-Saxon cathedral.

Dr Rodwell's excavations have shown that the earlier building consisted in its final form of a nave and two aisles, the nave cut by the line of the cloister built in 1220 and thus earlier. The aisles, however, abutted the cloister, and when they were added, that of St Nicholas on the south in 1276 and the northern aisle of St Catherine at a prior date, the solid walls of the central nave were pierced with arcades. It is that nave, left standing by Bishop Jocelyn in 1220, which seems to have been the Lady Chapel of the Saxon cathedral.

At its western end it was joined by link walls to the apse of the cathedral itself; the foundations of the apse were found this year still standing 2.5m (8ft) high and set in a trench 14ft deep, and this depth indicates strongly that a crypt survives inside the apse, under the east cloister walk.

The fact that the link walls were later than both apse and chapel shows that the Lady Chapel was originally a detached building, some 10m by 6m (32ft by 20ft) in size. The east wall of the chapel proved to be the reused west wall of a still earlier Saxon structure, of which only part survives. This building seems to date from before the historical date of the foundation of Wells in AD 705 by King Ina of Wessex, and from more than two centuries before the foundation of the cathedral in AD 909. Its west wall lies over a series of five graves lying parallel, one of which contained Merovingian glass of the sixth to seventh centuries, olive-green in colour with incised spiral ornament. The graves, and others in a cemetery of which they formed part, were all aligned on azimuth 72°, the orientation of the Saxon cathedral.

Below the cemetary, which seems to be a lay Christian one, were several walls running north-south, of Roman or post-Roman date, associated with Roman pottery and building debris. This is the first evidence for a Roman occupation of Wells, and still earlier material of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, more than 4,000 years old, has also been found.

The major interest for Dr Rodwell lies in the possibility of further investigation of the Saxon cathedral, which may well have been dismantled as the new Norman building arose to its north; a similar sequence was documented on the site of the Old Minster in Winchester, which also had a massive "west work" around the grave of St Swithun, which may compare with the western atrium of Wells. The chancel and possibly the nave of the Saxon cathedral at Wells lie under the cloister garth, but this is filled with medieval and post-medieval burials, the most recent being that of a Victorian bishop; further excavation may be difficult.

A related piece of research which has proved much easier to carry out has been the opening of the seven tombs of the Saxon bishops, who were translated into the new cathedral and provided with effigies in the thirteenth century; they may have rested in the Saxon Lady Chapel while the old building was being pulled down and the new erected, Dr Rodwell thinks.

Six of the tombs contained lead labels giving the name of the bishop, placed at the translation to ensure that their identities were not lost. The bones were bundled in red cloth for reinterment; a study of them by Dr Juliet Rogers has shown that all the bishops were aged more than 60 when they died, and extremely arthritic; one has a cut on the head, perhaps from a sword. Additional bones, three skulls, of which one was packed with small bones and teeth, may be medieval relics hidden in the tombs at the Reformation for safe-keeping.

University news

Oxford

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE
The following elections have been made: College scholarship (history), Mary T. J. Russill, commoner: Shaw Lefevre exhibitions, Rosemary McLeod, commoner, and Chloe M. Rackow, commoner.

Bristol

Appointments:
Dr M. V. Berry and Dr A. Lang to personal chairs in the Department of Physics.
Dr F. E. Round to a personal chair in the Department of Botany.

Gifts and grants:
Medical Research Council: £135,158 to Dr R. B. Taylor, department of pathology, to study "interactions of antibodies with cells in control of the immune response": £126,886 to Professor B. T. Pickering, department of anatomy, to study "the endocrine neurone as a model for the study of secretion": £58,635 to Dr J. M. Creeth, department of biochemistry, for "Studies of human mucus glycoproteins and mucus secretions": £56,663 to Professor H. Gutfreund, department of biochemistry, to study "Light-initiated changes in visual pigment molecules and their function in the retinal receptor membrane": £37,049 to Dr G. A. F. Hendry and Dr W. T. Griffiths, department of biochemistry, to study "senescence of the photosynthetic apparatus": £26,651 to Dr A. J. Bailey and Dr F. J. Bourne, department of animal husbandry, to study "new stable cross-links in collagen, characterization of the study of ageing and connective tissue disorders": £25,761 to Professor J. B. Chappell and Dr M. Denton, department of biochemistry, to study "Calcium ions and the regulation of intramitochondrial metabolism in mammalian tissues": £21,282 to Dr I. Chopra, department of bacteriology, to study "tetracycline resistance involving intracellular protection of bacterial protein synthesis".
Science Research Council: £153,504 to Professors F. G. A. Stone and J. Macmillan, departments of organic and inorganic chemistry for "Structural studies in inorganic and organic chemistry": £74,805 to Dr A. Beckett, department of botany, for "High resolution scanning microscopy of biological materials": £72,017 to Professors C. Andrew and R. T. Severn, departments of mechanical and civil engineering, towards a Maglacan image analysis system: £62,606 to Drs P. Woodward and J. A. K. H. Howard, department of inorganic chemistry for "X-ray diffraction studies on organometallic and organic compounds": £35,260 to Dr C. J. Pennycuick, department of zoology, for "Bird flight: morphometric and kinetic survey": £31,111 to Professor H. Gutfreund and Dr J. J. Holbrook, department of biochemistry, to study "structure function relationships in complex protein systems": £55,848 to Professor P. H. Fowler and Dr R. M. Redfern, department of physics, for a study of the "anomalous components of the cosmic radiation": £52,900 to Professor D. H. Everett and R. H. Ottewill and Drs B. Vincent and T. Cosgrove, department of physical chemistry, to study the "application of photon correlation spectroscopy to colloid and polymer chemistry": £48,000 to Professor R. N. Dixon, department of theoretical chemistry, to study the "high resolution electronic spectroscopy of unstable species": £47,762 to Professor J. MacMillan, department of organic chemistry, to study "Enzymatic regulation of gibberellin metabolism in plants": £27,267 to Dr P. L. Timms, department of inorganic chemistry, to study "Synthetic reactions of carbide, boride and silicide vapours formed by electron beam heating": £20,550 to Dr M. V. Berry, department of physics, to study the "topological aspects of wave motion": £26,639 to Dr P. M. Wood, department of biochemistry, to study "ammonia oxidation as bacterial energy source": £24,370 to Dr A. M. Roberts, department of zoology, to study "spinal cord networks underlying swimming in amphibian embryos": £25,864 to Professor R. M. Bird and Dr D. A. Grant, department of electrical engineering, to study "the use of ratio changing in pulse width modulated inverters": £23,038 to Drs R. D. Adams and E. G. Ellison, department of mechanical engineering, to study "provision of general purpose servohydraulic test rig plus mini-computer for control for data acquisition": £21,256 to Dr H. F. Burridge, department of electrical and electronic engineering, to study "the mains as a communication network": £21,098 to Mr B. Day, department of architecture, to study "control techniques for energy conservation in dwellings".
Social Science Research Council: £37,000 to Professor G. Whittington, department of economics towards a research fellowship in inflation accounting: £26,716 to Professor T. [illegible] and Mr R. Hambleton, school for advanced urban studies, to study "Implementation in Planning Systems": £73,969 to Mr M. J. Hill, school for advanced urban studies for "studies of policy implementation in central-local relations".
Agricultural Research Council: £25,871 to Professor A. J. F. Webster, department of animal husbandry for Analysis of the microenvironment in calf rearing units: £34,211 to Dr R. B. Taylor, Department of Pathology, to study adjuvant free immunization against reproductive hormones: £43,422 to Dr P. J. Bourne, Department of Animal Husbandry, for a study of integrated mucosal defence mechanisms.
£150,824 from the University Grants Committee for building work for the department of anaesthetics, Bristol Royal Infirmary.
£145,120 from the Bernard van Leer Foundation to Professor N. R. Butler, Department of child health to study Parent support in disadvantaged areas.
£28,205 from the Department of Health and Social Security to Professor P. Parsloe, school of applied social studies, to investigate relationship between child guidance and school—a study of a consultative service.
£38,000 from the National Research Development Corporation to Drs A. Goodship and L. Lanyon, department of anatomy, to study development of new compression bone plate.
£21,096 from the South Western Regional Health Authority to Professor H. G. Morgan, Department of mental health to study anorexia nervosa: its nature, treatment and outcome.
£60,710 from Rutherford Laboratory to Drs W. M. Gibson and J. Malos, Department of Physics, for experiments on S.P.S., CERN Geneva.

Bradford

Appointments
Lecturers: P. S. Excell, BSc, electrical engineering; Alison Froggatt, MA, social work; T. G. Gallagher, BA, PhD, peace studies; J. M. Gilchrist, BSc, MPhil, opthalmic optics; T. Kitwood, BA, MSc, PhD, science and society; A. K. Kochhar, BSc, PhD, manufacturing systems engineering; J. S. Oakland, PhD, [illegible], production management; H. S. Reehal, BSc, PhD, physics; Ms J. Sutton, CQ, SW, social work; Ms C. [illegible], BPharm, PhD, pharmaceutical chemistry; J. [illegible], BA, project planning centre.
Fellows: Draper's Company Fellow in textile research, S. [illegible], PhD; fellow in visual arts, D. Walker-Barker, DipAD, MA.

Grants and agreements:
£37,698 from the National Computing Centre for Professor D. P. [illegible] and staff to assist the development and commercial application of the training material, "Getting started in microprocessors", "Microprocessor hardware design" and "Software development".
£17,618 from the Science Research Council to Dr P. R. Lancaster to investigate tensile, fatigue and fracture properties of materials processed by wire drawing and hot rolling.
£19,800 from the research and development department of the British Library to Dr J. A. W. [illegible], Mr E. Yannakoudakis and Mr F. R. Ayres for a project entitled "The development and exploitation of a Universal Standard Book Code (USBC)".
£37,891 from the Social Science Research Council to Dr R. J. Butler and Professor D. J. Hickson for an investigation entitled "Power and decision-making".

OBITUARY

SIR FRANCIS ROSE

Painter and designer

Sir Francis Rose, who died on November 19 at the age of 70, was one of the last of a long line of English eccentrics and a shorter list of aristocratic dilettantes who toyed, like his friend and sometime collaborator Lord Berners, with many arts and never quite had the spur of necessity to attain professional mastery in any one.

He painted quite a lot, and wrote a little: reviewing his autobiography *Saying Life* in 1961, Cyril Connolly unkindly observed "Sir Francis has been able to say Life but not to spell it", and found the book's misprint-strewn pages symptomatic of "a genuine talent for getting everything slightly wrong". It was perhaps this aspect of his work which particularly endeared Sir Francis to the French Surrealists and to Gertrude Stein, who hyperbolically praised his painting ("the most important painter among the younger painters today", 1939) and got him to illustrate several of her books, including the *First Reader*, which he designed in a suitably sophisticated-naive (or perhaps simply naive) style. In Britain his paintings were taken less seriously, though he began in fine style by winning a gold medal at the age of 13 in a London exhibition organized by Sargent and Orpen for painters under 15.

He was born in Surrey on September 18, 1909, his father (whom he succeeded in 1915) being the third baronet and his mother the daughter of a French count; his education was sketchy and after his teenage triumph as a painter he spent a lot of time in France, where he became friendly with Gertrude Stein, Jean Cocteau and other important figures in the Parisian art world and had his first one-man show in 1931. A show in London in 1933 provoked less excitement, and whereas his 1938 show at the Petit Palais had considerable réclame his Mayor Gallery show in London the next year left critics bemused, more inclined to pay tribute to his enthusiasm than to his talent or technique.

In the same year, though, he had a genuine success with his designs for Lord Berner's ballet *Cupid and Psyche* at Sadler's Wells, which remained perhaps, with his designs for Serge Lifar's production of *La Peri* in 1946, the peak of his achievement. He continued to show quite regularly in London and Paris throughout the 1950s and 1960s, and had a major retrospective in London and Brighton in 1966.

He was married twice, first to Frederica Carrington, then in 1967 to Mrs Beryl Davis.

PROFESSOR BEN ZION BEINART

Professor Ben Zion Beinart, whose death on November 2 has been reported briefly, made a distinguished contribution to the academic and political life of his native South Africa before his appointment, at the age of 60, to the Barber Chair of Jurisprudence at Birmingham University.

Born in 1914 of a Jewish family of Lithuanian origin, he spoke Afrikaans as his first language. He read arts and law at the University of Cape Town, then came to London for post-graduate work and was called to the English Bar in 1940. After five years in the Union Defence Forces, he became Professor of Law at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and then in 1949 Professor of Roman and Comparative Law at Cape Town, where he taught for 25 years.

At first optimistic about the awakening of a more enlightened spirit in South African society, he was an active participant in organizations for the defence of civil liberties and academic freedom, one of the founders of the Liberal Party and for several years chairman of the Institute of Race Relations. His writings in the 1950s on such topics as sovereignty and the rule of law were imbued with a fervent belief in democratic principles. Later he was to concentrate almost exclusively on Roman Law and the history of Roman Dutch Law, much of his work appearing in *Acta Juridica*, the periodical which he founded and edited from 1957. He will be remembered particularly for several volumes of translations from the Latin of the old Dutch jurists.

A large and jovial man, he was a popular figure at international conferences and shortly before his death he received a *Festschrift* in three volumes containing more than 60 contributions from scholars of many countries. He was due to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of South Africa on December 3.

In 1945 he married Gladys Levy, who survives him with a son and two daughters of the marriage.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL S. D. MACDONALD

Air Vice-Marshal Somerled Douglas Macdonald, CB, CBE, DFC, who was Head of the Air Training Advisory Group, NATO, died on November 23 at the age of 80. Born in 1899 he was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and served during the First World War in the RFC from 1917, transferring to the RAF the following year. He was awarded his DFC in 1920, for services in the Middle East. Two further periods of service between the wars also saw him in the Middle East, from 1924 to 1927 when he was in Iraq and Egypt, and from 1936 to 1939, the latter two years of which he spent attached to the Sudan Defence Force.

Here he was in 1939 at the outbreak of war and successively commanded 3 Wing (Sudan), 217 Wing (Persia) the Bomber detachment in Iraq during the rebellion in 1941. In this year he was mentioned in dispatches. In 1944 he was SASO, 9 Group, Fighter Command and from 1945 SASO 12 (Fighter) Group. From 1946 to 1948 he was AOC 11 (Fighter) Group, and from 1948 to 1950, Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Training.

From 1950 to 1952 he was Inspector-General of Air Training, Western Union, and his final appointment was that of heading NATO's Air Training Advisory Group.

He was appointed CBE in 1945 and CB in 1951.

He married, in 1949, the Hon Margaret Anne, daughter of the second Baron Trent, KBE.

SIR ROBERT PARR

Philip M. H. Bell writes:

Your obituary notice of Sir Robert Parr made no mention of what was perhaps the most distinguished and significant period of his career in the public service: his work as Consul-General at Brazzaville during the Second World War.

From late 1940 to 1942 Sir Robert Parr acted as an important link between the African headquarters of General de Gaulle's Free French movement and the British government in London. He was among the first to grasp the true nature and significance of de Gaulle's position which he sought to interpret to frequently unsympathetic observers in London. As early as November, 1940, after only a brief acquaintance with the Free French leader, he wrote: "General de Gaulle is the leader of a people and we must sooner or later recognize him as the head of a state unless his work is to fail of its real achievement. Moments and occasions must be chosen, but the principle can be established at once." Failure to do so, he argued, "must result in bitter discouragement that only weaken the movement and prejudice our relations with France after the war".

As these and other similar comments show, Sir Robert deserves to be remembered as an exceptionally acute and far-sighted adviser on Anglo-French relations in those difficult years.

He was also, in his later years, a most careful, wise and entertaining counsellor to those who sought his help in understanding the great events in which he had taken part.

SIR BEN BARNETT

Sir Ben Barnett, KBE, CB, MC, died on November 25 at the age of 85. Educated at Christ's Hospital and Trinity College, Cambridge, he served in the First World War with the Royal Engineers (TA), gaining his MC in 1918, and entered the GPO in 1920. He was a Principal by 1930. He was Telecommunications Controller, Scotland, from 1935 and Assistant Secretary (HQ) from 1939. In 1945 he was appointed Regional Director, Home Counties Region, and in the following year was Director, Inland Telecommunications. From 1949 to 1956 he was Deputy Director-General of the GPO.

On his retirement from the GPO he became Chairman of the Commonwealth Communications Board, a post which he held from 1956 to 1962, and he was a director of Pye Ltd, Telephone Manufacturing Co Ltd and Unidare (Dublin) Ltd.

He was made an Hon FIEE in 1973. He was appointed CB in 1948 and created KBE in 1952.

MR RICHARD ROVERE

Mr Richard Rovere, who covered the United States political scene for *The New Yorker* magazine for more than 30 years and wrote several books about major political figures, died in hospital on November 23. He was 64.

Rovere began his *New Yorker* column in 1948, and among his best-known books were *The Eisenhower Years* and *Senator Joe McCarthy*.

LT-GEN SIR E. WETHERALL

Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Wetherall, KBE, CB, DSO, MC, died on November 18 at the age of 90. Harry Edward de Robillard Wetherall was born on February 22, 1889 and served during the First World War in the Gloucester Regiment. He was wounded, mentioned in despatches and was awarded the DSO and MC.

Between the wars he was GSO for Weapon Training, Scottish Command, from 1930 to 1934 and from 1936 to 1938 he commanded the 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. From 1938 to 1940 he commanded the 19th Infantry Brigade and in 1941 went to Abyssinia as Commander of the 11th African Division and subsequently as GOC-in-C East Africa. From 1943 to 1945 he was GOC Ceylon and from 1945 to 1946 C-in-C Ceylon. He had been made CB in 1941 and was created KBE in 1946. After his retirement he was, from 1947 to 1954, the Colonel of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

He married, in 1923, Vera, only daughter of George de Lisle Bush.

Lady Grattan-Bellew, wife of Sir Arthur Grattan-Bellew, CMG, QC, died on November 21. She was Freda Mary Mahony and she married her husband in 1931.

Mr Andrew Polson, MBE who was chairman of the Royal Automobile Club from 1972 to 1975 died in Epsom on November 21. He was 74. He leaves a widow and a daughter.

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 407.1, down 1.5
FT Gilts 64.09, down 0.39

Sterling
\$2.1625 up 25 points
Index 69.1 down 0.1

Dollar
Index 86.8 down 0.2

Gold
\$394¼ an ounce \$2.375

3-month money
Inter-bank 16 13/16 to 16 15/16
Euro-\$ 13⅞ to 14

IN BRIEF

...TA chief ...es grim ...tlook for ...rlines

...lines will finish 1979 with ...rnings deficiency of 7.5 ...ent of operating revenue ...se of huge increases in ...prices and an inflationary ..., Mr Knut Hammarskjöld, ...or general of the International Air Transport Association ...says in his annual review ...state of the air transport ...ry.
...sults for the first six ...s generally show con... ...l increases in traffic and ...factors", Mr Hammar... ...states. "However, we ...a sombre economic back... ...d, with expected recession ...e United States, a slow... ...in the average GNP ...h rate to around 2 per ...in the most advanced ...industrialized economies, ...ished economic growth for ...developing countries in ..., Asia and Latin America, ...uneven prospects in the ...e East.
...ch a downturn in busi... ...could well be reflected in ...terms in shrinking dis... ...le incomes and a reduced ...d for air travel. An ...us question mark hovers ...future fuel costs, while ...t and en-route charges ...ue to soar."

...x merger on

...Exploration and London Scottish Marine Oil are ...ree to go ahead with their ...d merger. The mystery bidder has withdrawn and ...xploration is recommend... ...areholders to accept the ...offer. Oil Exploration ...lost 104p to 690p on the ...

Financial Editor, page 17

...ord wine sales

...e sales in the United ...om are expected to reach ...l levels this year, with ...nption totalling more ...100 million gallons, says ...Vine and Spirit Associa... Christmas sales in the ...quarter should increase ...verall growth rate to at ...15 per cent.

...e Canadian links

...lo-Canadian talks at ...ment level on stepping ...direct flights between ...n and Canada's booming ...-rich province of Alberta ...be held in January, Mr ...Parkinson, Minister of ...for Trade, announced on ...eturn from a five-day ...ian visit yesterday.

...sh coal protest

...ent talks with the ...al Coal Board and British ...over controversial plans to ...t coking coal are wanted ...e Welsh TUC, which is ...ed that extra shipments ...orce several Welsh coking ...o close.

...l stoppage

...work on open cast coal ...g sites is expected to stop ...row when members of the ...port and General Workers' ...stage the second of four ...ed one-day strikes in sup... ...of a pay claim. An esti... ...l 50,000 tons of coal pro... ...on will be lost.

...p for home buyers

...e Building Societies Asso... ...n has published a free ...et, Building Societies and ...e-Purchase, providing ...led information for bor... ...rs and investors.

Cut in lending rate by American bank sparks speculation of recession

From Frank Vogl
in Washington

Bankers' Trust of New York became the first major commercial bank in the United States today to cut interest rates. The decision brought speculation that rates here have peaked and are headed downwards.

Bankers' Trust cut its prime lending rate to 15¼ per cent from 15¾ per cent. The record 15¾ per cent level was only established on a nation-wide basis last week. Since midsummer American rates have increased by more than 4 per cent and the rise has been particularly sharp since the Federal Reserve Board announced credit tightening moves on October 6.

Expectations of falling rates and the Bankers' Trust action overshadowed concern about the United States-Iranian crisis on the New York Stock Exchange this morning.

In the first three hours of trading the volume was a heavy 26 million shares changing hands as the average gain per common share was 51 cents and as the Dow Jones Industrial Index rose 14.25 points to 826.02.

The belief that interest rates have peaked rests upon recent bank loan demand figures and market interpretations of Federal Reserve Board thinking.

Several Wall Street brokers suggest that the long-heralded recession has started. The hardest evidence is the latest banking data from the New York Federal Reserve Bank. Commercial loan demand fell \$364m in the last statement week at New York's main banks.

The brokers believe that the Federal Reserve Bank sees the recession developing and has decided modestly to relax its credit squeeze.

It could be that some brokers are reading too much into the recent cuts in loan demand. There is still no evidence of a decline in the 13 per cent inflation rate, or any sign of a significant strengthening in the dollar.

Federal Bank officials warned however, that it would be dangerous to interpret too much from just one set of statistics. The new figures show a \$1,000m fall in M1 in the last week but a \$1,100m rise in M2.

Mr Alfred Brittain, chairman of Banker's Trust, said: "The lowering of the prime rate reflects a decline in our cost of funds and, in effect, passes our reduced funding costs along to our customers."

Most economists take it for granted that the recession is about to start. Argus Research, for example, said today that because of the recession it saw the prime rate falling to an average of 13.65 per cent in the first quarter of 1980 and annual growth rates slowing to just 2.7 per cent in the current quarter and 3.5 per cent in the next quarter.

Caroline Atkinson writes: Both the dollar and the pound were generally weak on foreign exchange markets yesterday. Fears about the pay outlook in Britain were cited as a reason for sterlings decline against some leading European currencies. The dollar is still being undermined by the unresolved crisis in Iran.

There were reports that Iran intends to pay for its imports in the currency of the exporting country rather than in dollars. Some dealers believe that Iran is busy converting all the dollars it can into other currencies.

The dollar dropped against the Deutsche mark to DM1.749 from DM1.7615 on Friday and also lost ground against a basket of currencies. Sterling closed marginally higher against the dollar at \$2.1625 after falling below \$2.15 early in the day.

There is now some uncertainty in the market about how long sterling can hold its present levels given the very poor prospects for the balance of payments next year.

Peter Wainwright writes: Gilt-edged securities were hardening in late dealings yesterday after Bankers' Trust cut its rates.

Dealers last night thought that stocks would try to go better this morning, especially if the trend gains momentum. But earlier on gilts were up to £1 off in the longs.

They were borne down by the Friday announcement of a further long tap, £1,000m of Treasury 14 per cent 1998-2001, continuing tension in Iran, labour trouble at Leyland, wage increases in excess of 20 per cent and dismay with last week's forecasts from the Treasury.

Guaranteed loans plan for small businesses

By Bryan Appleyard

A new scheme involving pension funds in providing guaranteed loans for small businesses could be posed to win akceptance from banks and the Government.

The plan, devised by two accountants, is to be presented to Conservative MPs tomorrow at the House of Commons at a meeting of the Tory Small Businesses Committee. Initial reactions have been favourable because the scheme overcomes Consservative objections that any system of loan guarantees involves an unacceptabwe level of intervention in private enterprise.

The devisers are Mr Barry Baldwin, a partner in accountants Price Wazerhouse in charge of the firm's Special Services Group, and Mr Christopher Kirkham-Sandy, a senior tax manager with the SSG.

The main aim of the scheme is to overcome the problem that British banks tend to require security for loafs by a charge on personal or business assets or by a guarantee by the proprietor, relative or friend. The accountants say that many viable small businesses cannot borrow money solely because they cannot provide an adequate level of security or guarantees.

Under the proposals a bank, confronted with a loan request from a viable business with insufficient security, could ask the Government to guarantee for example 75 per cent of the loan, the rest being borne unsecured by the bank.

The 75 per cent portion would thus become a guaranteed loan note which the bank could sell to other investos. The notes would have a guaranteed income and fixed repayment dates, effectively making them gilt-edged securities.

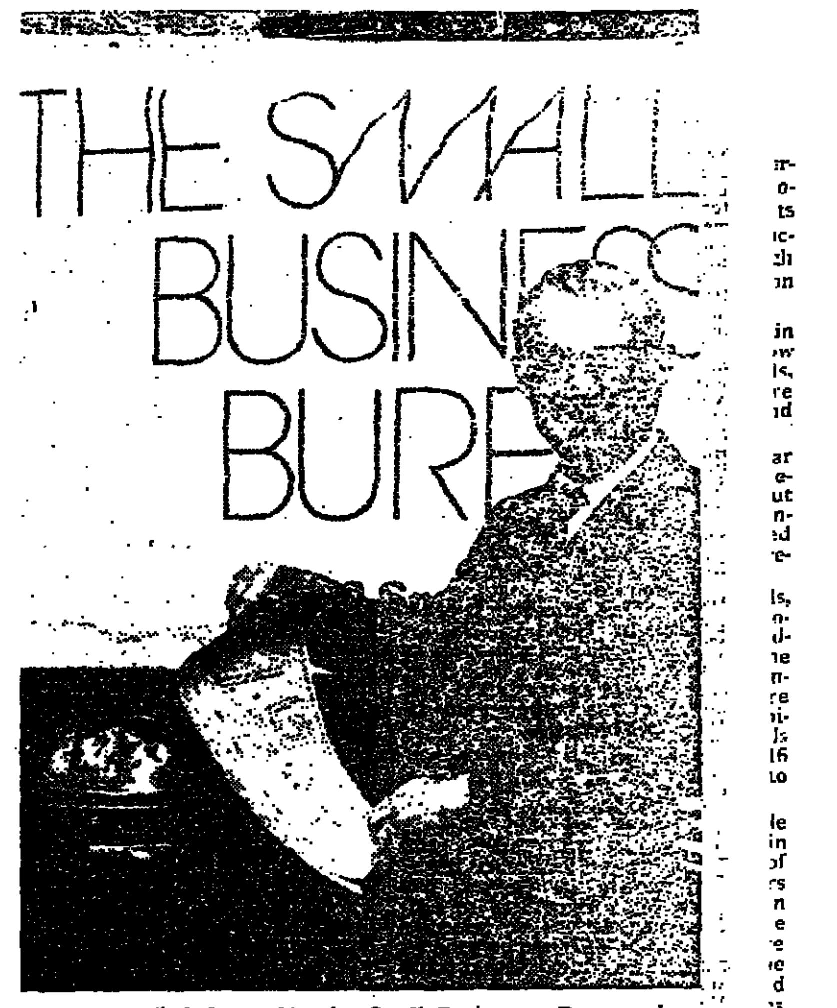
It is thought that pension funds are the most likely buyers of the notes because they would offer both the security of gilts and the political bonus that they could be seen to be investing in productivve industry rather than government debt.

The bank would pay the Government a guarantee fee of 1 per cent per annum on the principal and would manage the loan, the guarantee fee and, in cases of default, woul be responsible for recovering both the loan and the accured interest.

The accountants estimate that £100m lent on this system would create 10,000 new jobs worth about £8m in income tax and £12m in saved unemployment and social security payments. It would require few civil servants to run and the money supply would not be jeopardized as the loan money would be supplied by pension funds.

Mr David Mitchell, Minister responsible for small businesses, said last night that loan guarantees were one posssble method being studied for helping small businesses.

Mr Mitchell said the Government was monitoring developments on a loan guarantee scheme being operated by the Welsh Development Agency.



Mr David Mitchell outside the Small Businesses Bureau: loan guarantees are a possible method of aid.

Government faces pressure over BL's relationship with NEB

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The Government is faced with mounting pressure to clarify the future relationship between the National Enterprise Board and BL. This could lead to the Department of Industry assuming a more active role in the affairs of the troubled car company, pending a Government decision on the future relationship between the NEB and its biggest subsidiary.

Sir Michael Edwardes, the BL chairman, stressed some weeks ago that if the Government decided to transfer responsibility for Rolls-Royce to the Department of Industry, he would seek similar treatment for BL.

After last week's unprecedented resignation by the former NEB board led by Sir Leslie Murphy, its chairman, BL reaffirmed its intention of seeking a transfer.

The NEB has known the BL corporate plan for some weeks. The company is seeking between £300m and £350m in addition to the £225m already designated to it. The NEB will consider the company's requests and make recommendations to the Government.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary has however emphasized that he would have to be convinced that the company's plans can succeed, and the present round of troubles whih have followed the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the BL shop steward, will make it more difficult for the Industry Secretary to be convinced.

The previous NEB board is understood to have had some reservations about the 1980 corporate plan, but yesterday the NEB said that all inquiries about the future funding of BL should be addressed to the Department of Industry.

Asked whether this amounted to a de facto transfer of responsibility, a spokesman for the board said: "The Department of Industry is fully aware of our views on this point".

The board and Sir Arthur Knight, its new chairman, clearly feel that some clarification of the future relationship is both necessary and urgent.

No arrangements have yet been made for Sir Arthur to meet Sir Michael Edwards and similarly no formal request has been received from the BL chairman for a meeting with Sir Keith Joseph.

Last week the new NEB chairman said that he was full of admiration for the way in which Sir Michael and his team had tackled the extremely difficult problems which faced the company but added: "I do not know what we could do to help Michael Edwardes and his colleagues

The NEB has statutory responsibilities for BL, as it has with Rolls-Royce until the Industry Bill now before Parliament is enacted.

Sir Keith indicated last week that he would have to give careful consideration to the request for the transfer of BL. While he recognized that both Rolls-Royce and BL had a similar scale of operations, the two cases were not comparable.

It is expected to be some weeks before decisions are taken and will involve discussions with both the BL board and with the NEB.

Paul Routledge writes: TUC leaders yesterday snubbed an approach from Sir Keith Joseph to nominate trade unionists for the new National Enterprise Board.

The TUC's "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, considered a letter from Sir Keith asking for continuing cooperation in the work of the NEB. They endorsed the view of Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, that there was no basis on which trade unionists could take part.

Mr Murray said after last week's resignations that "given the shabby way the old board had been treated, no self-respecting trade unionist will serve"

Temporary reprieve for orders and output

Manufacturing output and orders have held up better than expected during the last month, according to a trends survey published by the Confederation of British Industry. But this reprieve is likely to be strictly temporary as it is largely a result of a catching-up process after the engineering dispute combined with the boost given to consumer demand by tax rebates. A fall in output is expected from the first quarter of next year.

There has been a slight improvement in order books this month over last month with 40 per cent of manufacturers reporting below normal levels (as against 41 per cent) and 14 per cent (compared with 13 per cent) reporting an increase. However, the underlying trend is that total demand for manufactured output remains weaker than earlier in the year.

The CBI reports that demand is weakest for producers of intermediate goods and for large companies employing more than 5,000 people. Predictably, there has been a fairly strong recovery reported by the mechanical engineering sector.

Future prospects remain distinctly bleak with signs of steep price increases and decreasing competitiveness overseas. A higher proportion of manufacturers (67 per cent compared with 60 per cent) expect to charge more for their goods during the next four months and the general expectation is that activity will decline next year as a result of falling demand both at home and abroad.

One of the most worrying trends for exporters is the continuing increase in the United Kingdom unit labour costs relative to those of the main overseas competitors. The latest survey shows a sharp decline in competitiveness compared with the September index, the first to be included in the survey.

Taking 1975 as a base the latest CBI figures for unit labour costs in manufacturing are about 25 per cent higher than those of equivalent overseas manufacturers compared with a 20 per cent level recorded at the end of September.

If trends in pay and productivity continue at the rates of the last two years, the CBI's forecasts suggest that production will continue to decline in the United Kingdom after 1980. If however, increases were contained to the average levels of the 1950s and 1960s it would be possible to return to a rate of economic growth sufficient to double output over 25 years.

Overall, the forecasters expect "real" pre-tax return on profits to be below three per cent this year and below two per cent next year. This, they say, would be the worst recorded figure and could cause considerable damage to investment.

Dearer gas is first step towards consistent EEC energy pricing

From Nicholas Hirst
in Brussels

The European Commission believes that gas prices in most EEC countries are too low, and it is likely to recommend increases next year.

The recommendation would be part of an attempt to bring uniformity to energy pricing within the community. If it was accepted by member nations, there could also be changes in the price of petrol, electricity and coal.

Mr Melville Gellard, an official of the EEC Directorate-General for Energy said yesterday: "It is entirely anomalous for some consumers in the EEC to have to pay more than others. There should be a convergence of pricing." A detailed study of gas pricing has shown that in most member states it is sold below its long-term replacement cost.

Herr Jurgen Kuhn, the chef de cabinet to Dr Guido Brunner, EEC Energy Commissioner, said that the study had shown there were large differences between the price of gas and other energy sources. The Commission felt this should not be so. Pricing should be based on the need to assure long-term supply, and should help energy saving and contribute to a stable balance of different fuels. Gas should not be sold at a price which encouraged it to be consumed too quickly.

These views are in accord with those held by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy. The United Kingdom does not have the lowest gas price in the EEC, although its cheapness has increased demand for new connections which British Gas has been unable to meet. The corporation intends to increase prices to domestic consumers next year.

A common energy strategy throughout the EEC would undoubtedly be a boost to the British Department of Energy's intention to bring the price of electricity and gas closer together.

However, energy prices across the nine Community members would not become identical. The Commission's recommendations would take into account the differing levels of wealth of each country.

Alterations in both taxation and prices are involved. The proportion of tax in gas prices is highest in France, at 15 per cent, and lowest in the United Kingdom where there is no tax element at all.

The Commission has no power to insist on changes being made and can only recommend action to member states. On past performance, there is likely to be more talking than action.

Commons reply. Any attempt to meet a surge in the demand for gas caused by soaring oil prices could lead to supply interruptions, Mr Howell warned today in a written Commons reply. He said "The British Gas Corporation is advancing extra sums for capital investment to provide greater capacity. And it will be paying four to six times as much for future gas out of the North Sea as it pays under present contracts for older gas fields."

He added that the "unavoidable move to higher energy prices" which this meant "must be careful and gradual". But he said it was impossible to be insulated from the need for greater consistency in all energy pricing.

Europe talks with Comecon start amid suggestions of breakdown

From Michael Binyon
in Moscow

Talks began in Moscow today on ways of concluding a framework agreement between the EEC and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block.

There has been no word so far on the progress of negotiations, and a briefing paper outlining the EEC position was withdrawn at the last minute without explanation.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner for External Affairs leading the delegation, is likely to face tough criticism from Mr Nikolai Faddayev, the Comecon secretary, for what Comecon believes to be the EEC's dilatory and deliberately obstructionist approach to any agreement. It has been suggested that if nothing comes of the present talks, which have now dragged on for five years, the attempt to form a link between the two organizations could break down.

Comecon has argued that the draft agreement it put forward as long ago as 1976 is not intended to replace agreements the EEC has already reached with any of the 10 individual members of Comecon, or preclude any further such agreements.


Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp: faces tough criticism from Comecon.

The Soviet block wants a framework agreement to show the readiness of both sides to broaden their contacts multilaterally, but a recent article by a Soviet observer, Mr Alexei Chertanov, accused the EEC of being interested only in working relations with the Comecon secretariat to exchange information on minor matters.

The Russians accuse the nine of a contradictory policy in their negotiations, voicing readiness to expand relations while shying away from practical steps in this direction. They say this reflects the attitudes of business circles in the EEC and the persistence of cold war thinking.

Writing in New Times, the influential foreign affairs weekly, Mr Chertanov rejected the EEC argument that Comecon did not have the legal powers to conclude agreements with the EEC. He admitted both bodies differed considerably in their organization. But he said the EEC had already negotiated with other trading blocks that differed in their structure without raising the "competence" of the other parties.

He accused the EEC of being biased against Comecon, and said this approach ignored the need for all Europe to tackle jointly the problems of transport, power supply, the environment and scientific cooperation.

Recent proposals by the EEC to recognize Comecon as a party to any agreement and to include a clause in the preamble on the role of trade in economic growth are dismissed by the Russians as window-dressing.

New Times said the EEC had not gone beyond the idea of establishing only working relations between the two organizations. Leaving out trade and economic questions did not hold out promise of fast progress.

PRICE CHANGES

...ses

...ys	13p to 261p	Muirhead	10p to 258p
...ham Grp	2p to 119p	Prudential	5p to 154p
...cp	1p to 50p	Royal	5p to 313p
...pton Gold	10p to 245p	Tricentrol	10p to 283p
... Chem Ind	1p to 352p	Unilever	4p to 454p

...ls

...d	2p to 79p	Ladbroke	8p to 144p
...ods	19p to 142p	Lasmo	28p to 365p
...l Leisure	9p to 63p	Moran C	2p to 28p
...rd & Nat	6p to 186p	Oil Exploration	104p to 690p
...merson "A"	25p to 580p	Viking Res	8p to 149p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
...ralia \$	2.00	1.94
...tria Sch	28.90	26.90
...ium Fr	65.00	61.50
...ada \$	2.58	2.51
...mark Kr	11.62	11.12
...and Mkk	8.42	8.02
...ace Fr	9.20	8.80
...many Dm	3.97	3.75
...ece Dr	97.00	92.00
...gkong \$	11.05	10.45
... Lit	1840.00	1755.00
...an Yn	562.00	538.00
...herlands Gld	4.43	4.20

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Norway Kr	11.20	10.70
Portugal Esc	111.00	106.00
South Africa Rd	1.93	1.80
Spain Pta	148.25	141.25
Sweden Kr	9.36	8.96
Switzerland Fr	3.77	3.55
USA \$	2.20	2.14
Yugoslavia Dnr	48.75	45.75

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Programme to bring back old names and 'real' ales

Ind Coope brews up a revival

By Our Commercial Editor

Ind Coope, part of Allied Breweries which makes up a third of the group's 7,600 public houses, is launching a five-year programme to revive its old brewery names and return to brewing traditional cask-conditioned local ales.

Allied's existing chain of breweries will produce the local ales but the return to local brews is expected to raise costs.

Considerable additional expenditure will also be incurred in reviving the "aura" of brewery names taken over in the past. These include Benskins in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, Taylor Walker in London, and Friary Meux in the South. Some public houses in Romford, Essex, will take the Romford Brewery name.

The Ind Coope name will be retained in East Anglia, where it originated, and in some other areas.

Traditional, or real, ales ale, in contrast to the keg brewery-conditioned ales, accounts for 20 per cent of Ind Coope's draught beer sales but demand is increasing.

Traditional, or real, sales often carry a price premium which could mean good commercial logic in the Ind Coope plan.

The changes will also create six local operating companies. This is in line with Allied's earlier restructuring of its beer business which is now run by 12 separate companies—including Ind Coope—acting as individual profits centres with their own development policies.

The main reason for the Ind Coope policy changes is that its volume growth has not been as great as had been hoped, although the company has been maintaining its previous position in the growth league. The big brewers' growth has been markedly below that of the smaller breweries with their local appeal. Smaller brewers have been seeing growth rates of about 6 per cent compared with increases of less than 1 per cent by the big brewers.

Watney Mann and Truman, part of Grand Metropolitan, has been introducing more local names for draught ales, reviving among others Manns and Tamplins.

Derek Harris

£148m plan to help Montedison offshoot

Montefibre Spa, Montedison's loss-making fibres subsidiary, will need 260,000m lire (about £148m) in new cash between now and the end of 1982 under a restructuring plan for which it is seeking bank and government approval, Industry sources in Rome said.

Montefibre considers it could balance its books in 1981 or 1982 if the plan is approved, as long as its Acerra fibres plant near Naples is completed and there is an improvement in group productivity.

Gatt chief's request

Mr Olivier Long, the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, whoe 84 member states are meeting in Geneva, has asked for a committee to continue negotiations on selective safeguards, the main unresolved issue in the Tokyo Round trade agreement.

French exports boom

France has overtaken Japan as the world's third largest exporting nation, according to figures prepared by the CNPF, the French Employers' Association. These show that exports, valued in dollars, have risen by 18 per cent this year.

Hongkong trade down

Hongkong recorded a visible trade deficit of $HK1,180,000m (about £11,153m) in October compared with September's deficit of $HK597m and the $HK584m deficit in October last year, provisional figures show.

Japan's growth slows

Officials at the Japanese Economic Planning Agency say Japan's real economic growth is likely to be slower in fiscal 1980 than the 6 per cent officially estimated previously.

EEC Consumer index

European Community consumer price index rose 1.1 per cent in October over September, for a 12 per cent year-on-year increase, sources report. This compared with a 1 per cent rise in September over August, and an 11.4 per cent increase on a yearly basis.

Prices up in France

French retail prices rose about 1.2 per cent in October, *Le Monde* reported yesterday. The rise would mark a sharp acceleration from the 0.8 per cent September gain.

Car record in Japan

Japan's vehicle production in October rose 12.5 per cent to a record 912,000 units from 811,000 in September, and 15.4 per cent from 790,000 in September last year, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said. The previous record was 852,000 in June this year.

Plea to hold down paper import quotas

The Government is being pressed to make a quick decision on the controversial 1980 level of duty-free quotas for imports of paper and board from Britain's former Efta partners. Worried United Kingdom paper industry leaders say that to protect *domestic mills and* jobs the quotas must not be increased.

While the British industry has contracted significantly in recent years, imports from Scandinavian countries have grown despite the *application of duty* on a small proportion of the total. Imports of all grades of paper and board from all countries have risen from 32 to 50 per cent of consumption, and the industry maintains that further import growth needs to be checked.

Officials of the British Paper and Board Industry Federation recently put their case to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, and his counterpart Viscount Trenchard, at the Department of Industry. Despite some Whitehall sympathy, it is feared that the quotas will be lifted.

Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary at the Department of *Trade, said* in reply to a Commons question a few days ago that the Government was bound to "take account of the interests of our former Efta partners towards whom we have treaty obligations, and of the *United* Kingdom user industries which are also large employers of labour in this country."

The whole issue of tariffs and quotas has been regarded as "a sharp thorn in our side" *by the United Kingdom industry* since the late 1960s, when Britain became vulnerable to duty-free competition from its new Efta partners of Sweden, Finland and Norway while the EEC countries were protected by a *12* per cent tariff wall.

When Britain joined the EEC in 1973, paper and board were treated as "especially sensitive" products and a complicated list of protective measures were written into trade agreements with the Efta countries.

Britain was to reintroduce a rising scale of duties and the EEC was to reduce its tariff. When the two figures coincided in 1977 at 8 per cent an extended reduction period for the new "harmonized" tariff began, with a drop to 6 per cent this year and reaching zero in 1984.

The Efta countries, however, successfully negotiated a system of duty-free quotas which gave free entry to the United Kingdom to 80 per cent of their imports. The original quantities could be increased by up to 5 per cent a year entirely at the discretion of the British Government. This covered all grades except newsprint.

Major quota increases were granted in the boom year of 1974, but when the predicted recession arrived, the size of the new quotas gave the Scandinavians almost totally free entry *to the British market.* Increases have been granted each year since 1974. although demand has not reached that year's level. The United Kingdom market next year is expected at best to remain static with no significant *upturn until 1981.*

Paper and board imports from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal are expected this year to be about 1.7 million tonnes against quotas totalling 1.4 million tonnes. Duty will be payable on some grades while quotas on others will not be exhausted.

The British industry is concerned particularly about the effect next years on production of wood-free printing and writing paper and carton board, both made in large quantities in this country. The Scandinavians, it is claimed, have built new "speculative" capacity for a market that is already oversupplied.

Britain's printing industry, however, claims that it is under pressure from European printers who are able to buy paper that has not been subject to duty from within the EEC.

British paper producers argue that the Scandinavians rarely pass on to customers any duty they have to pay, and that the chief advantage of the present system is to encourage the Nordic manufacturers to seek other markets once the quotas have been exhausted.

Edward Townsend

Mr John Z. De Lorean and his DMC-12: he denies that investment in the car is a high-risk venture.

Belfast car project under way

By David Felton

Residents of the huge Twinbrooks housing estate in west Belfast can now look out of their windows and watch two new sleek sports cars driving around the test track of a motor assembly plant on what until just over a year ago was grazing land.

This is the result of a £52m investment by the Government in a company set up by former General Motors high-flier Mr. John Z. De Lorean to assemble 30,000 sports cars a year in a mainly Catholic area of Belfast.

There has been scepticism in some quarters that an ambitious programme to produce 30,000 cars a year within 2½ years of starting construction of the assembly plant would succeed. The new car will be *sold, initially, mainly in the* United States, particularly on the west coast.

The basic questions which have been raised are whether there is a market for such a car which incorporates some new features and whether an operation starting from scratch in the volatile atmosphere of Northern Ireland can produce the required number of cars of the quality required by the American market.

Mr. John De Lorean is convinced the cynics will be proved wrong. He contends that there is a large market for the car in North America and the company is already looking for outlets in other regions.

De Lorean Motor Cars point to the fact that so far 320 dealers have been signed up with every prospect of reaching their target of 400 US dealers in the near future. Each dealer has to buy $25,000 of DMC *common stock, provide a re*volving letter of credit for $100,000 and undertake to accept between 50 and 150 cars a year, depending on their size.

Mr De Lorean has denied that investment in the new car is a high-risk venture, although in submissions filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission the company said that any prospective investor must be able, and prepared, to lose all funds invested.

The two prototypes, which have started exhaustive tests, have been engineered by Colin Chapman at the Lotus headquarters in Norfolk. There are three other pre-production models at Lotus and the first pre-production cars *assembled* at Belfast will start tests in less than a month's time.

If all goes well production should start next summer and by late 1982 a total of 30,000 cars a year will be rolling off *the assembly lines in Belfast.* The first two full years of production has already been sold to dealers

Sell MG to Aston Martin, MPs say

By David Felton

A group of Tory MPs is urging BL to drop its plans to close the MG assembly plant at Abingdon in Oxfordshire and transfer the MG marque to Triumph. The group wants to see the plant and the marque sold to a consortium headed by Aston Martin Lagonda.

Mr Robert Adley, chairman of the recently-formed MG Group in the Commons, said yesterday that he believed the negotiations with the consortium were a charade, and that BL was determined to make Abingdon a Japanese car parts factory.

BL has already made plain that it would be reluctant to part with the MG marque and wants to put it on a derivative of the TR7 for export to the United States. MGBs now account, in volume terms, for more than 50 per cent of BL's business in the United States and the company intends to cease production of the MGB at the end of next year.

BL would then use Abingdon as a receiving centre for kits from Honda, with whom the state-owned concern is to collaborate on a mid-range car.

Mr Adley, MP for Christchurch and Lymington, said that 85 Tory MPs had signed an "early-day" Commons motion urging BL to sell the MG facility rather than switch the marque to Triumph or Honda.

"At the moment we are suspicious of the veracity of the statement by BL of their willingness to discuss arrangements with Aston Martin", he said.

Organize better, CBI urges exporters

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Exporters to the EEC must organize themselves better and press harder to remove non-tariff barriers such as differing standards to improve their trading record with the community. They should also attempt to establish a "local" presence wherever possible to overcome lack of confidence in British products.

These are two main conclusions of a survey commissioned by the Confederation of British Industry on how community *membership has shaped company's* attitudes.

Sir Peter Tennant chairman of the CBI working party said: "Understanding the EEC animal should be the aim of more companies and their trade associations if they are to exert influence and solve some of the practical problems which stand in the way of greater sales".

A third suggestion, endorsed by Sir Peter, is for greater shop-floor involvement in exports. Commenting on the survey, he said that "the presence of a trade union representative in a company sales team going abroad does something to counter the image of Britain as a land of strikes and late deliveries".

But the working party concludes that response is likely to be sluggish, however much the CBI advocates the idea. Instead it accepts the National Economic Development Office's suggestion to propagate the *notion through sector* working parties because these "in contrast with other parts of our export machinery are well attended and supported by the TUC".

The report strongly recommends *exporters* to *establish* a local base. In addition to reassuring customers of a company's commitment, this helps to steer product design towards local taste and helps in negotiations with national and local authorities.

The report urges companies to devote more senior attention to transporting their products to the point of having someone at board level master-minding transport operations. It says this would help to dispel the idea that British suppliers are insufficiently sensitive to delivery dates and after-sales

NCB oil-from-coal scheme enters pilot plant research stage

The National Coal Board is taking a significant step towards its goal of providing "fully commercial coal refineries" before the end of this century. Two of three possible methods of obtaining oil from coal are likely to move forward to the pilot-plant stage at the Point of Ayr colliery on the North Wales coast.

Design studies and detailed cost estimates should be completed next year, when a decision on whether to build the pilot plants will be made. A preliminary estimate said the total project would cost about £31m at April, 1978, prices.

Laboratory-scale work using all three methods has been done at the NCB's Coal Research Laboratory at Stoke Orchard, near Cheltenham, where small quantities of petrol have been obtained and used in motoring tests.

The processes are known as liquid solvent extraction, supercritical gas solvent extraction, and pyrolysis, and it is the first and second of these that are *to be developed* at Point of Ayr.

All three methods use heat to break down the coal structure into small fragments. Hydrogen is then added to upgrade the raw product into a synthetic *crude oil which* can then be processed by traditional refinery techniques.

In the first method, the coal is dissolved in a hot liquid solvent (itself derived from coal). In the second, a high-pressure gas is used. *The former* process shows particular promise for a range of aviation and road transport fuels (petrol, (diesel, kerosene); and the second for aromatic chemical feedstocks (benzene, tuolene, xylene) used to make resins, plastics, rubbers, paints and artificial fibres.

The third technique, pyrolysis, remains a candidate for future development. In this method coal is heated rapidly in the *absence of air* to produce liquids and gases. The NCB is participating in an International Energy Agency programme of basic pyrolysis research.

Each of the two pilot plants is expected to process about 25 tonnes of coal a day, producing about 10 tons of liquid products. The performance of the plants will aid the design of larger-scale, commercial units.

Sir Derek Ezra, NCB chairman says the Coal Board has made petrol from coal and has tested it, and now is the time to scale up the processes. "We are determined to be ready with the production of liquid fuels from coal to help solve the inevitable problems which will arise in the 1990s, when crude oil supplies will be unable to match the demand."

Before the end of this century, Sir Derek says, liquid fuels and feedstocks made from coal will be able to compete in every way—including quality and price—with identical products at present processed from crude oil.

Technology News

Government wary over wave power prospects

Edinburgh University's wave-power project is moving into advanced development and full-scale design under a *£400,000* grant from *the* Department of Energy. But, in a report just published, the department is distinctly cautious in its assessment of wave-power prospects in general.

The university project team, led by Mr Stephen Salter of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is now working with engineers from Laing and the Scottish Partnership. Their design is for a series of oscillating vanes (known as "Salter ducks") pivoted on a hollow, flexible spine.

The up-and-down motion of the vanes under the action of the waves is converted into electricity via hydraulic motors.

The full-size central spine would consist of a series of reinforced concrete tubes 10m in diameter, 60m long and 0.5m thick. A 1/75 scale assembly of about 80 vanes mounted on a spine is expected to be tested in a wave tank at Edinburgh within the next few months.

The Edinburgh team has revealed first details of the way in which the movement of the vanes *is to be converted* into electricity. Instead of levers, gears or chains around the spine, gyroscopes are used to create an inertia force; the pressure of the vanes' movement against this force is used to operate hydraulic pumps which in turn drive the hydraulic motors which produce the electricity.

This novel approach is claimed to offer big advantages in harnessing wave power; not only can it accept sudden inputs from large waves but, indeed, it is able to make use of them by diverting the temporary peaks of energy into the gyros. As the large wave subsides the increase in gyro speed is then fed back into the pumps.

In its latest report on wave energy (Energy Paper No 42, HMSO, £5) the Department of Energy stresses that the day when electricity will be generated *from the waves around* Britain is still a long way off.

While the technical feasibility of the main types of proposed wave-energy converter has been established, none can yet be recommended for the building of a full scale model.

Problems include the limited choice of structural material caused by the harsh sea conditions. Concrete is likely to be used for main bodies, with components made of steel. This will be expensive.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High-handed Post Office action in telephone bill wrangle

From Mr John Holmes

Sir, Dr Rudd (November 13) and any others who may contemplate taking issue with the Post Office about their telephone bill would be well advised to think twice.

In 1974 I had two separate business lines, one of which functioned reasonably well, and this was paid for regularly and without dispute. The other gave a lot of trouble, and in September 1974 I received a bill for this telephone amounting to £420 including £290 for metered calls. I refused to pay this account and the telephone was disconnected, despite my offer of £250 pending an investigation. My offer was refused.

Having "lost" one line, I continued to operate my business through the other. Within two months this alternative line, my only link remaining, was also disconnected. Under the terms of the Post Office Act, the Post Office claims to be entitled to deprive a customer in dispute with them of all Post Office services.

Without communication, my business deteriorated and I was *soon deprived of a substantial* part of my livelihood.

Two years later, the matter came to court and the telephone bill was found to be excessive. The original charge of £290 for metered calls was reduced by the court to £98—almost exactly the amount I had offered the Post Office two years earlier. I was also awarded costs from the time I had paid the undisputed amount into court, but no damages—the Post Office Act precludes them.

My member of Parliament, Mr David Penhaligon, who had unstintingly supported me throughout, wrote to the Post Office and suggested that an ex gratia payment should be made in compensation. This was refused *on* the grounds that the Post Office were "disappointed with their (the court's) findings"—yet they did not appeal.

Dr Rudd says that he "will overcome". He cannot so long as the Post Office Act remains extant in its present form, and, until the operations of the Post Office are brought within the encompass of the law as it effects everyone else, that situation will prevail.

The people to whom the telephone is so vital are the thousands of small business users who must simply pay up, however excessive *they* feel their telephone bill may be, for failure to do so is tantamount to business suicide. The Post Office know this and trade on the fact.

I can also assure Mr Hertzog that there are several ways by which his meter can register calls not made by him. Reference to *Which?* February 1976, gives one or two examples.

Nor is any help to be obtained from POUNC in any dispute of substance. The Post Office appear to have a firm grasp on their strings.

Yours truly,
JOHN HOLMES,
Carelew House,
Bodmin Road,
St Austell,
Cornwall PL25 5AE.

From Mr R. T. Arguile

Sir, On Monday November 12, a day before your paper again *appeared,* Post Office Telecommunications placed advertisements of a quarter-page or thereabouts in the various organs of the daily press advising all and sundry when and how the long-delayed phone accounts would be presented. This followed an earlier notice sent to all householders headed "Telephone Bills" which it has been stated cost £450,000 to produce and deliver. All this publicity has cost money and yet has not produced the revenue the Post Office seek.

Yet when I asked, in turn, my local telephone manager, Post Office Users' National Council, and the chairman of the Post Office Corporation why *I cannot pay my phone account* by monthly budget payments as I do my general rates, my water rates, my gas and electricity accounts, I was told that there are difficulties although it was admitted that there are advantages to all by payment on a monthly basis. All I have asked for has been a banker's order which I sign for the payment of a certain monthly sum and from thereafter the Pos Office gets its money, i advance of the usual quarterl payment, and I can go away or holiday or elsewhere safe i the knowledge that all my pub *lic services are being paid.*

The Post Office can prin multitudinous leaflets an place costly advertisements bu is apparently unable to prin banker's orders. I then pa and what they do with th bank transfer is up to them Difficulties? Other can do i Why not the Post Office?

Yours faithfully,
R. T. ARGUILE,
12 Edward Road,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire LE16 7AD.
November 15.

From Mr Ranald Boyle

Sir, Mr Barry Hertzo (November 15) may like t know that I had a very di ferent experience from hir concerning the checkability o telephone meters.

Some time ago, I had a absurdly high telephone bil from the West of Scotlan Telephone Area, which queried. They agreed that i was very much higher tha usual, and admitted that ther had been trouble on the lin over a period, which they ha been trying to rectify. The thought it *possible* that th metering had been at faul After some negotiation, a com promise was reached and I se tled my bill for marginally ove the average quarterly bill, an honour was satisfied. Needles to say, I have been keeping close check on my telephon bills ever since.

The most noticeable di ference between Mr Hertzog' experience and mine woul appear to be the attitude o the telephone authorities i the West of Scotland and i Surrey. Perhaps infallibilit weakess as one gets furthe north!

Yours faithfully
RANALD BOYLE,
Downcraig Ferry,
Millport,
Isle of Cumbrae,
Scotland.
November 15.

Need for technical advice on fuel conservation

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, In the late sixties the gas board changed every single gas appliance in the country from town gas to North Sea gas. Few customers are technical experts. Presumably the gas board saw that it had a responsibility to initiate and organize this change on their behalf. It organized the technical modifications to appliances, and it also organized the financial aspects so that the change was as painless as possible for the average customer. We employ technical experts to make just these kinds of decisions for us.

In the late seventies we are short of energy and we are led to understand that the gas board is so short of gas that it may have to cut customers off this winter. Yet we also know that many of our gas "appliances" are inefficient: our houses need insulating, our thermostats need checking, the gas jets in our central heating *boiler* probably need adjusting. We know that improvements in these areas pay for themselves quickly if done thoughtfully, but we are not experts, and will be slow to initiate change.

The gas bill is still small compared to other household bills and other things have first call on the little capital most families are able to invest.

Is this not again a situation where our technical experts could, and indeed should, organize the details of this desirable change for us? If the gas men checked and adjusted every single gas appliance over the next few months they could possibly save enough wasted energy so that no one would have to be cut off this winter. In the longer term, if they took the initiative, gave expert advice to each householder and organized conservation work on his or her behalf, they could conserve even more enerby. By acting as banker and *organizing the* capital payback as part of the net gas bill they could make the energy conservation option easy for us.

Please will the gas boards be our conservation entrepreneurs?

Yours faithfully,
J M PLATTS,
3 Station Road,
Willingham, Cambridge.
November 17.

VAT—not a value-added tax at all

From Mr Graham Cleverley

Sir, As a one-time advocate o taxing value-added at the tim it was appropriate (not tha anyone was taking much notic then) I have to welcome M Lessey's recognition (Novembe 13) of its inappropriatenes now.

But he overlooks a couple c points.

One is that VAT as at pr sent applied does not actuall tax value-added. For thos individuals or companies th are exempt from it it is a ta *on consumption—exactly* th opposite of a tax on valu added. For those that ar registered, whether zero-rate or not, it is not a tax at al since they don't pay it: the only collect it.

While it remains a nonsens cal institution of almost unb lievable stupidity therefor VAT does not in fact have th deleterious economic effe that Mr Lessey alleges (ar that a true tax on value-adde would have, at this time).

He also overlooks that ci cumstances will sooner or lat change again, and that generally speaking possessic of the ability to tax value-add would be a useful weapon the government's economic a moury, to be sheathed and u sheathed as necessary. Yes, t VAT apparatus should be d mantled, but Mr Lessey implicit suggestion that should, when the time is rip be re-mantled is horrifyin *indeed there is enough* e dence of economic sanity his letter for me to believe l didn't really mean that.

There is, after all, a fair obvious alternative. Virtua all companies either calcula their value-added explicitly, do 99 per cent of the ari metic necessary to do so preparing their norm accounts. At the same tir and through the same mec anisms, as corporation tax levied (or income tax, whe *relevant), an extra impo* could also be levied based the company's value-adde The cost of doing so would tiny for everyone involved.

And the rate could be rais or lowered (perhaps to ze to meet changing economic c cumstances through the norm budgetary processes.

And the present VAT coll tion system could be got r of.

GRAHAM CLEVERLEY,
29 London Road,
Southampton SO1 2AD.

Bad news for an older subscriber to Bupa

From Mr R. D. Knott

Sir, I have recently received from the British United Provident Association (BUPA) a reminder that my subscription for the coming year is due, and enclosing a description and entry form for a new project "Bupacare", which pays for private treatment but at a considerably cheaper premium than the old rate which has become intolerably high as the cost of private nursing and treatment escalates.

Unfortunately, I am now 65 years of age and am dismayed to find that in spite of having been a Bupa subscriber for many years, *fortunately* with scarcely any claims, I am not eligible due to my age to transfer to the new scheme.

Bupa tell me that, due to the fact that there is a growing competition in the private health insurance sector, it is essential for them to attract the young and they go on to say that "overall it is a fact that the cost of claims increases with the age of the subscriber, and the question of admissibility to the new scheme, as well as the subscription and benefit structure, must take account of the fact . . ." I make no comment on this.

With retirement, the high subscriptions of the old scheme are intolerable and, just when I may need private health care, I am deprived of it, which I suppose suits Bupa admirably.

I am writing this letter so that prospective or existing members of Bupa may be able to bring enough pressure to bear in order that at 65 they are not priced out of benefit.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN D. KNOTT,
Walnut Tree Cottage,
The Green,
Offham,
Kent.
November 21.

Rhodesia: what are UK trade hopes?

From Mr Anthony Gold

Sir, Now that we have an accord on the transition to independence in Zimbabwe Rhodesia serious attention must be given to the depressing article from your Salisbury correspondent on the dismal prospects for Britain on trade with Zimbabwe after independence. Apparently we can expect that the lion's share will be taken by those countries who have not exactly over-exerted themselves to ensure that their nationals observed United Nations sanctions.

Your correspondent referred to France, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland and suggested that by virtue of their trade with the illegal regime, concerns from those countries would be well placed to obtain the large public works contracts which will be offered following independence. If that happens, it will be yet another example of our economic and political misfortune in Africa.

This country, above all, has limited its investment and trade with southern Africa because of our detestation of the white regimes while others, in particular France and Germany, have been building up their trade in our place. Yet it is Britain which is so often in the dock while our more aggressive and insensitive competitors seem to have avoided the displeasure of black Africa and the Third World which has so often been voiced against this country.

One hopes that these facts will be made abundantly clear to the participants at Lancast House before they return fight their election and th when a British gover arrives in Salisbury he will only be accompanied by high-powered trade delegat but that he will also take w him detailed and documen evidence of sanctions bust so that the new governm will know who its real frie are and who, on the ot hand, have supported the i gal regime over the past years.

It is too much to hope th for once, virtue will be re warded rather than kicked the teeth.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GOLD,
43A Streatham Hill,
London SW2 4TP.
November 16.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Small fry in the North Sea

Shareholders in Oil Exploration are unlikely to be overjoyed at the way the third bidder disappeared anonymously from the scene yesterday—causing the shares to slump 104p to 690p.

But the proposed merger with London & Scottish Marine Oil still makes financial sense, blending together as it does LASMO's strong cash flow from its stake in the Ninian field (where ICI's figures last week showed production to be building up well after some earlier hiccups) with Oil Exploration's phase of heavy capital commitments mainly associated with the Phillips consortium in block 6/17.

One question that needs to be answered is whether the unnamed bidder has dropped out simply to avoid driving up the price against itself should it decide to go for the merged group—yesterday's price falls with LASMO off 28p at 365p indicates that any bidder for the combined group will now get it for around £30m less.

The history of North Sea development this decade has shown time and again that small companies simply do not have the cash resources to fund North Sea fields and the LASMO/Oil Exploration deal is a sign that the North Sea membership fees are getting higher still.

Earlier North Sea favourites like Cawoods and National Corbonising have had to give up pretensions to becoming fully-fledged oil groups with even concerns like Tricentrol, with its Government loan facility tied to royalty payments until recently, and LASMO, which had to conjure up oil production stocks to butter up investors, forced to offer attractive terms to borrow money to fund their North Sea developments. But the climate for oil concerns in the North Sea, especially the clipping of BNOC's wings, has become brighter under the present Government.

urrencies

ccounting for ovements

ter last week's decision by the Federal :counting Standards Board, to throw out eir controversial method of accounting changes in currencies, the whole quesn of how multi-national companies should :kle the subject is once again wide open. In the UK the business is a running saga yway, with ED 16 superseded in Septem- 1977 by ED 21, under which companies uld use either the closing rate method which case tranlation gains on fixed ets could be taken to reserves, and transion losses on both fixed assets and foreign rency borrowings could be set off against reserves so arising, if any), or the templ method (in which case cash, plus assets d liabilities held at current prices were alued at the closing rate, and any differes arising put through the profit and loss ount).

ll the moaning and groaning which osure drafts are designed to provoke completed in fine style a couple of ks ago with a meeting of the finance ectors of 40-odd top companies: and the ilts now have to go to the Accounting ndards Committee for a definitive answer he question.

: is still a great deal too early to say it that answer will be: but it does rather as though the weight of the practical ice tendered to the ASC will favour the investment or "Unilever" aproach, igh possibly with modifications.

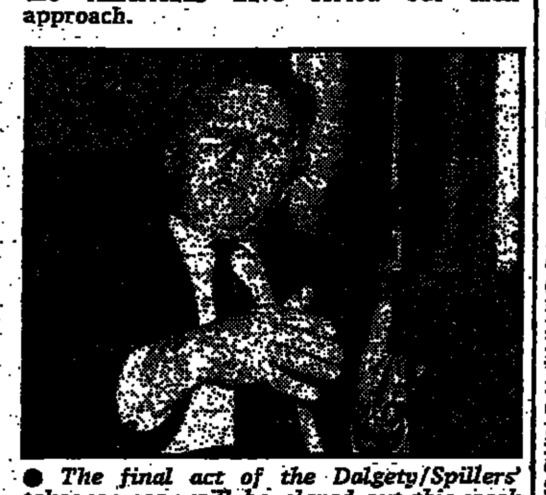
perating subsidiaries at Unilever proe their own accounts in their home curies, and for the purposes of internal iagement control are monitored by their ent company during the year at the rates exchange ruling at the start of it. For purposes of investors, however, closing s are applied to attributable profits at quarterly reports and at the end-year, to luce, if the subsidiary's currency has strong, an exchange gain, and vice a.

ow, there might be room for argument the rate of currency used (ICI, for nple, thinks that average rates give a r picture than closing rates), but basicthe treatment of profits is not a prob. It is on the treatment of assets and ilities that controversy arises. The erican approach has been to translate ts at historic rates, and debt at closing s which throws up mighty losses if you borrowed in a relatively strong currency, even if the borrowings have been used to buy assets in the same currency, which would realize far more than their book value if they were up for sale.

The principal alternative, the net investment approach, assumes that where an overseas operation is self-financing, the exchange risk exposure of the parent is its investment in that overseas operation as a whole—which being the case, there is no point in splitting out current or non-current, monetary or non-monetary, assets and liabilities.

So if a subsidiary borrows to buy assets in the same country, and the currency in which it has borrowed appreciates against that of the parent, it isn't the potential increase in the liability (in terms of the parent company's currency) which is important, but the net movement of asset and liability together.

This method has one great advantage, according to Unilever: it works. It works, that is, for Unilever's operations—which are relatively light on capital expenditure, and above all, relatively quick to produce a return. Whether it would work equally well for, say, a company borrowing in dollars to fund the installation of a power station in a third world nation, with a five year moratorium on debt repayments, is something which the ASC will now have to consider. *One thing is quite certain: in the* interest of that great good, harmonization of accounting practice, they will be most reluctant to come to any conclusions before the Americans have sorted out their approach.



● *The final act of the Dalgety/Spillers' takeover saga will be played out this week when Mr Michael Vernon, Spillers' chairman (above), advises his shareholders to accept the Dalgety terms. It is over a month since Mr Vernon wrote obliquely to his shareholders saying they had a number of options, one of which might be to remain in a minority. At that time Mr Vernon and some other members of his board saw the possibility of a large minority staying out, Dalgety having gained 61 per cent acceptances when its offer went unconditional on October 17. Any thoughts of a decent minority being formed, however, have evaporated; Dalgety now has 78 per cent acceptances and Mr Vernon will advise remaining Spillers' shareholders to throw in the towel.*

Dawson

Cash-rich

At the cashmere end of the market, Dawson International breathes finer air than some of its less fortunate brethren in the ailing textile sector. Nevertheless, profits growth of 12 per cent to £7.4m in the first-half masks a slight downturn after allowing for a first-time contribution of around £2.4m from the Haggas acquisition. Currency movements have been the main factor reducing profits by around £1.4m.

Dawson has edged up prices, particularly overseas, to compensate for the exchange effect without meeting much resistance—order books are good and the group is still operating at near-capacity.

Profits should be heading to around £17.5m for the full-year against £16.3m and the shares offering a p/e ratio of under 6 and yield of possibly 13 per cent at 86p could well be shares worth buying in the textile sector. True, high-quality knitwear is not necessarily recession-proof, but Dawson should come through the latest crisis in better shape than the majority of its rivals, and supporting this view is the fact that the group still holds a cash hoard of almost £20m.

Hugh Stephenson

Beware of false profits

Whatever the Wilson committee on the City says next year in its report it has already had one effect. The financial institutions, especially the major pension funds, have been made very jumpy about the criticism that they sit unimaginatively on thousands of millions of our statutory savings and do not pay imaginative regard to the needs of British industry.

Scarcely a month goes past without some new announcement of a venture capital scheme backed by institutions to show that they are responsibly seeking to provide the seed-corn for a healthy new crop of businesses, to ensure vitality in the private sector of our mixed economy.

All of this is fashionable and none the less welcome for that. But the fact remains that the overwhelming bulk of institutional equity investment is through the secondary market in fairly sizable chunks of established large and medium-sized quoted companies. The amounts of money involved and the nature of the institutions' operations ensures that this is inevitably so.

Here we come to the ending of dividend restraint. Companies like GEC and Shell had over the years been restrained from paying dividends that they could and should have paid. But there was the obverse of that coin. Under the regime of dividend restraint, my guess is that more companies paid out too much in dividends than paid out too little.

Under the pressures of the system the 10 per cent maximum increase effectively became the minimum for the broad majority of British companies. If you declared less than a 10 per cent increase, it was as good as an admission that you were failing in your business. And everyone knew that the institutions would not like that.

Now, even in a good run of years, this would have been a steeper than normal increase in the general level of dividends. But with inflation they were not particularly good years. What is certain is that the next year or so is going to be even worse.

Where the real rate of return on trading assets for the industrial and commercial sector as a whole may have been 10-12 per cent in the 1960s, it has been down to 4-5 per cent in more recent years. As the recession bites and inflation accelerates over the next 18 months that black picture is on average certain to get worse.

The institutions have to answer the charge that collectively they have brought pressure on companies to distribute more than they should in the form of dividends. The *cause célèbre* of recent years was Coats Patons in 1975, where the company was roasted by the institutions when it announced its plans to pass its final dividends. They threatened to vote against the adoption of the company's 1974 accounts.

The managements of other companies heard the message loud and clear. In the intervening years many who might have held or cut their dividends in the long-term interests of their businesses thought it prudent not to do so, for fear that institutions would pull out and their share price suffer.

As the Governor of the Bank of England pointed out in his important lecture at the Institute of Fiscal Studies on November 6, inflation goes to the root of the problem. As he then said, under inflation the conventional measures of profits have become increasingly misleading. They lead to self-deception about the realities of a company's position.

A recent survey has shown that a third of the larger listed companies have not included any inflation adjusted statement in their report and accounts, nor have made any undertaking to do so. The result is that some companies may feel obliged to distribute over-generously in order to match the dividend policies of companies that are still working on historic cost accounting procedures.

Since the stock appreciation reliefs of 1974 the effects of inflation have been eliminated from company profits on a rough and ready basis so far as corporation tax is concerned. In logic, companies which admit that their reported historic profits are unrealistically high for tax puposes should also conclude that they are unrealistic for dividend purposes.

The institutions will have to do some serious thinking about their relations with companies struggling with the coming profit crunch. They will not be serving the interests of British industry if they just vote with their feet against any company that decides that it needs to cut its dividend to survive.

Otto's horrors: the nightmare we narrowly escaped

The 1947 winter fuel crisis: if Marshall Aid had not arrived the following year there would have been even more to grin and bear.

Since receiving the Treasury's medium-term assessment at the end of June Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been uncommonly gloomy, describing the outlook as "almost frighteningly bad".

The press, at the Chancellor's prompting, has followed suit, describing the June forecast and last Thursday's short-term assessment as among "the gloomiest ever". Well, are they? Not if you take 1945 as your base-line.

The dubious honour of the worst forecast of recent times must go to a document concealed among old Treasury papers for 1947 and preserved in the files of the long defunct Central Economic Planning Staff. Under the misleadingly bland title "Marshall Proposals. Alternative action in the event of breakdown" this once top secret file was declassified last year and can now be retrieved at the Public Record Office under the code T229/36.

The context of the forecast, briefly, was this. In June, 1947, General Marshall, the United States Secretary of State, made his famous Harvard speech about European recovery. The British Government seized upon it eagerly and negotiations began in Paris for the establishment of what eventually became the European Recovery Programme directed by the Organization for European Economic Co-operation.

In Great George Street, meanwhile, the American Loan of 1946 was rapidly nearing exhaustion. It became clear almost instantly that sterling's convertibility to the dollar, restored on July 15, could not last long.

In mid-July Sir Edward Bridges, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, asked R.W.B. (later Sir Richard) Clarke, known to all as "Otto", then an under secretary in charge of the London end of the Marshall preparations, to prepare a forecast of what would need to be done if Congress failed to approve the Marshall Plan (a real risk), delayed it or granted insignificant amounts of money. What, in short, would the United Kingdom do if left to its own devices?

Clarke called a highly secret meeting, described in the documents as Otto's "If Marshall fails (hush-hush)" group, for July 16 and set about drafting a paper. There was no more vivid wordsmith within Whitehall at the time and it makes genuinely alarming reading. Sir Geoffrey Howe, by comparison, is basking in fields of Clover.

According to Clarke's brief, entitled "Alternative Action", the central problem would be financing imports from North and South America in 1948-49 if substantial aid was not forthcoming from Washington. The trade deficit with the United States, Canada, Argentina and Central America would be so large, at least $2,000m in 1948, that it could not be bridged by what he called "wangling".

What could be done about it? The United Kingdom could put itself first by "re-empting" (sic) supplies, taking American wheat from India, Rhodesian copper from France and Anglo-Iranian oil from sterling-area countries. A "new sterling area" might be created, embracing the United Kingdom and its colonies and Australia, New Zealand and Denmark.

The group would behave "entirely selfishly", keeping supplies to itself and pooling gold and dollar reserves to prevent net outflows.

In discussion at the July 16 meeting it became clear that international and moral commitments would have to go. Even withdrawal from the International Monetary Fund was contemplated at one stage, but eventually deemed unnecessary.

Schoolchildren

But it is in the last section of his paper, on what would have to happen to the domestic economy, that Otto Clarke reached depths of undreamed of austerity the like of which the Treasury has not had to contemplate even in its darkest moments since Sir Geoffrey Howe's arrival.

To get by, Clarke said, a famine food programme would have to be introduced, schoolchildren taken from their classes to help with the harvest and military-style conscription brought in to increase the ranks of agricultural workers.

It is so desperate that it is worth quoting this part in full:

> The practical problem for United Kingdom would be to ride the storm with lower imports. We cannot make great adjustments quickly in our economic structure without considerable distress. We should run risks of a downward spiral of activity, with cumulative frustration. It would be of prime importance to give people something to look forward to and to show that a plan existed for getting us through. For this reason, it would be necessary to present a plan for recovery by our own efforts by 1950.
>
> The crucial questions would be:
>
> (1) Agriculture. In the 1947-48-49 harvests to run no risks of insufficient labour; this might mean radical interference with educational arrangements. We should go forward with a "famine" food programme and, if necessary, direction of labour to agriculture.
>
> (2) Building. The building and investment programmes generally should be drastically cut down, to save timber and steel and manpower. We should not have resources for satisfying our elementary consumption needs plus exports plus investment. There will in any case be substantial investment programmes connected with the recovery plan (e.g. copper refinery, housing for miners and agricultural workers etc.)
>
> (3) Textiles. Wollen textiles would be of prime importance.
>
> (4) Coal. As always, fundamental.
>
> Some element of direction of labour would almost certainly be necessary. But for agriculture it could be treated as a specific national service (like military conscription) and there would probably be advantage in restricting direction to this.

Later drafts amended the last paragraph to read: "It is difficult to see how this could be done without direction of labour and indeed a complete and total mobilization as far reaching as that of 1940".

It is easy to fall prey to exaggeration and misinterpretation 32 years after the event when handling documents as vivid as these. The surest antidote is to consult those involved at the time. A handful of those who attended Otto Clarke's July 16 meeting are still alive.

One of them is Professor Sir Austin Robinson, then an economic adviser to Sir Edwin (now Lord) Plowden, Head of the Staff. It is Sir Austin's own file that is preserved at the Public Records Office. In briefing Sir Edwin on the Clarke meeting in 1947, Sir Austin sent him the paper with a covering note that read:

> You will realize that the situation we were considering would be so desperate that all obligations, legal and moral, would have to be in the melting pot. The decisions to be made are so formidable and so irrevocable that what we most fear is procrastination which might exhaust the few remaining resources that might help us to survive.

On receiving a photocopy of his old file, Sir Austin commented: "The mess we were trying to deal with then was infinitely greater than that applying now. The possibilities of a major crash were so much greater. But we had not then lost the power to take decisions."

Confidence

A similar sentiment was voiced by Sir Frank Figgures, then a Treasury principal working for Clarke.

> I do not think that those who were taking part in these discussions felt very frightened. Whether or not it was the moment of our greatest economic peril is perhaps better judged now than then. I doubt whether many of those around that table . . . felt that it was unmanageably dangerous.
>
> Although in the Treasury we perhaps more fully appreciated than most the state in which Central Economic Planning we had emerged from the war . . . we were not at that time suffering from a major lack of confidence in ourselves. Most of those in senior positions in Government had been engaged in the mobilization of our economy in the war effort . . . its performance in the war years had been quite remarkable by our own standards . . . there were at hand instruments which had worked, and which, no doubt, in such circumstances, could go on working.

Sir Harry Lintott, the Board of Trade's man at the July 16 meeting, strikes a more sceptical note: "I fancy Clarke's paper . . . was largely intended to make ministers' flesh creep." Sir Harry believes we are now much nearer to "the danger of a real economic, social and political breakdown . . . than at any time in the postwar years."

The worst, happily, did not happen. President Truman, General Marshall, Mr Dean Acheson and Senator Arthur Vandenberg successfully "fixed" Congress and Marshall Aid flowed from the spring of 1948. The Clarke file, however, is a salutary reminder that the country in living memory, in peacetime, has been in an infinitely more precarious economic position than now.

Should Sir Geoffrey Howe feel another attack of pessimism coming on, he should send one of his private secretaries down to the Public Records Office at Kew to collect a copy of T229/36. It would give him a better perspective. It might even cheer him up.

Peter Hennessy

A dose of austerity for the Belgians

Peter Norman

Brussels

A few weeks ago the official receiver, in the shape of the Ministry of the Interior, descended on our local town hall. The Brussels suburb, which it administers, had managed to overspend its budget by 50m francs before a higher authority decided to step in and impose painful cuts.

The area was not an obvious candidate for bankruptcy. It has none of the problems of inner city blight. Like Belgium as a whole it appears affluent and bustling. But like the country itself it had managed to drift into serious financial crisis.

This bigger crisis is destined to dominate Belgian economic life next year. The Government in Brussels plans to impose an austerity programme that seems certain to lead to social friction and is sure to do little to relieve the country's other major problem—unemployment.

The Government has tabled a 200-page Bill designed to limit its borrowing requirement. The most controversial item is a motorway tax that has already provoked protests from motoring organizations. Other proposals include wage, dividend and rent control, limits on the increases allowed in professional charges, a 4 per cent tax on "exceptional" corporate profits and higher transport charges.

Although consultations with both sides of industry preceded the drafting of the Bill, it has been rejected by both the employers and the socialist trade union federation. The latter has called on workers to demonstrate against the proposals this week and is advocating a national strike on December 7.

It is the rise in government spending over the past few years that has brought Belgium to its present plight. Government expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (gdp) has risen consistently since 1975 and is expected to amount to just over 53 per cent of gdp this year, compared with 46.9 per cent in 1975. By comparison the average percentage of government spending in relation to the gdp in the EEC has remained more or less stable, fluctuating between 45.9 per cent in 1975 and an expected 46.8 per cent this year.

The effect of this growth in spending has been a dramatic increase in Belgium's net public sector deficit as a percentage of gdp. It is expected to reach 7.4 per cent this year, compared with 4.4 per cent in 1975.

Belgium has the highest level of per caput government debt in Europe and was forced earlier this year to resume large-scale borrowing on the international capital market after an absence of 10 years.

The budget crisis has more than offset the benefits that might have been expected to accrue from Belgium's successful counter-inflation policy. Inflation over the first six months of this year fluctuated around 4 per cent and even after big increases in oil prices at the consumer level had risen to only just over 5 per cent by the end of October.

A consequence of holding inflation down to West German levels is that the international competitiveness of Belgium industry has been restored. The country has been able to profit from the economic revival in West Germany and experienced export-led growth. This should lead to real gross national product advancing by 3.5 per cent this year, against 2.5 per cent in 1978.

But, because of the high deficit, interest rates have remained substantially above those in Germany and the Netherlands, as the government has struggled to maintain the parity of the Belgian franc in the European Monetary System.

New investment has been disappointing and the government has little room for stimulating its economy should the economic revival in Germany turn down sharply next year. This year's cyclical upswing in Belgium has in any case failed to have any impact as yet on unemployment, which is expected this year to average 8.7 per cent—the highest level in the European community.

While an estimated 14,000 new jobs were created in the 12 months to the end of June, the country's potential workforce increased by 24,000. It has been estimated that the Labour force may increase by a further 200,000 up to 1985, which casts a grim shadow over medium-term employment prospects.

In part the disappointing employment trend reflects another "virtuous" aspect of the Belgian economy. Productivity is traditionally high and has advanced by no less than 11.9 per cent so far this year.

Belgium's experiences are relevant to Britain. The countries have a similar industrial structure, having become industrial at roughly the same time.

For the past five year Belgium has put its faith in a strong counter-inflation policy backed by fierce determination to keep the franc a hard currency. But failure to deal with its public spending problem leaves it in no position to follow through this year's cyclical improvement in the economy with a determined assault on unemployment.

Business Diary: AUEW's Laird ● What suits Simon

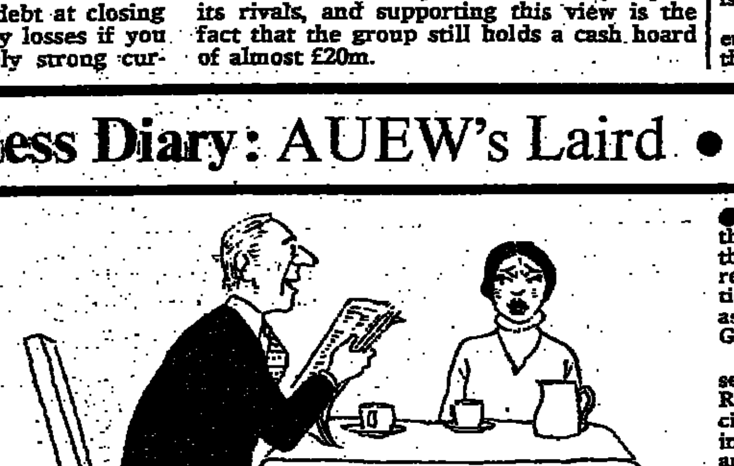
n Laird, a senior mem- of the executive of the lgamated Union of Engiing Workers, is unlikely to lenge his fellow moderate y Duffy for the AUEW idency — so Business Diary s:

can reliably report that d, barring an accident lling Duffy, will *not* attempt cure the right-wing nominafor the presidency against left-winger, Bob Wright, n Duffy defeated for the

the uninitiated, incidentthe rigid two-party diviwhich obtains in the AUEW s that of the American ical system. Even to start he road to the union's top neans that a candidate must off primary-style competifrom fellow members of same political faction.

ird, 46, is widely regarded ie industries with which he s as one of the ablest union ials of his generation. As of his union's three repreitives on the TUC General cil he is definitely a coming in the movement. He learnt ough end of trade unionism convener at Singer's.

w that his intention not to the right vote by challeng- Duffy is clear where will go? Well, the succession Sir John Boyd's job as ral secretary will come up first ballot 18 months that for the presidency t year). Also Laird, ten s younger than Duffy, d be the obvious candidate tep into Duffy's shoes as right-wing contender when y steps down—if he can that long.



"There are astonishing house bargains in East Anglia if you don't mind Americans and long-range nuclear missiles."

● I was given a first glimpse at the relation between tailoring and international economics at the West End premises of the man's outfitters Wells of Mayfair yesterday.

Wells threw caution to the winds and offered a little imitation champagne to those who cared to attend a reception marking the firm's 150th anniversary.

Among the clients who were unable to be at the ceremony but sent their good wishes was William Simon, the conservative economist who between 1974 and 1977 was the United States Secretary of the Treasury.

I had a word with Mac McSweeney, the Wells director who attends to the cutting of Simon's clothes, and found that Simon's sartorial taste is much in keeping with his economic predilections.

Simon, McSweeney said "is very conservative in his dress by international standards".

We pondered over an expanse of tweed that Simon was having run up as a shooting-cum-sports jacket, with leather elbow-pads and pocket jetting. This jacket, rather loud to my thinking, betokened, said McSweeney, the taste of a man who was obliged to dress as a square all day and sought to step out a little at the weekends.

Simon, McSweeney said, had a jacket and two suits (£700 plus, the lot) in the works.

Robert Bright, another Wells director, delivered a homily on deficit financing, of which Simon himself might approve. Speaking of a company that incorporates no less than seven firms, he said: "The days when the tailor was the last to be paid have now gone, because the tailors who helped to support that system have now gone. We prefer to be paid first and somebody else second."

● *Rosemary McRobert, one of* the most formidable figures in the consumer movement, is to rejoin the Consumers' Association, the publishers of *Which?*, as deputy to the director, Peter Goldman.

She will be leaving her present position as director of the Retail Trading Standards Association, which has all the leading department store groups among its members, early in the new year.

A veteran of the original Consumer Council, which the Heath Government put to death in an earlier quango hunt in 1970, Miss McRobert spent a spell with the Consumers' Association before being seconded to work with the present Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Conservatives looked more kindly on the consumer cause later in their term.

She was principally concerned with helping Sir Geoffrey Howe initiate local consumer advice centres whose future is now, in many instances, threatened by the spending cuts he insists upon in his new role.

There is general delight at the Consumers' Association about the new appointment. Miss McRobert has been on its governing council since 1974 and fills a position that has been empty since Eirlys Roberts retired in 1977.

As for the Retail Trading Standards Association, Miss McRobert reckons her biggest achievment there was to keep the organization in existence during five years in which the retail trade was increasingly infuriated by the amount of regulation visited upon it by a Labour government in the name of consumerism.

● *Herewith Business Diary's first Christmas story, which—it says here—shows bank employers and employees in Italy playing Scrooge to Labour Minister Vincenzo Scotti's Father Christmas.*

Scotti has brought both sides to the table today for talks on which hang a lot of Italian Christmas cheer. The bank employees' contract ran out at the end of last year and the employers have yet to bring glad tidings of great joy on another one.

Accordingly, from yesterday until December 7, the employees are pledged to 15 hours' disruption—not much over two weeks were it not that these two weeks cover the period when Italian employers begin paying the Christmas bonus of a 13th month's salary.

The government might just urge workers to take it on the chin were this not also the month when the self-employed make a three-quarters advance payment of their income tax against a settlement in June. Since the stoppages are staggered, nobody quite knows where the next foul-up will be.

Let us hope it is all settled today in time for everybody to get their Christmas lire.

I enjoyed the pastiche of business hyperbole that I saw being employed by a rag-and-bone man in my South London Street. He was pushing a hand-cart which bore the legend "Ted's Take-Away. Salvage Consultants. Established 2,000 BC."

Ross Davies

Stock markets

Gloom in gilts lightened in late dealings

Misery in the CBI monthly trends survey—it spoke of shortening order books and pressure on profits and finances—did nothing to enliven a market already saddened by industrial strife, wage deals in excess of 21 per cent, gloomy forecasts from the Treasury and Iran.

There is temporarily a glut of tap—there have been three taps in little more than a week—stock in the gilt edged market, designed to keep interest rates high and yesterday saw some tax loss selling. By the close long-dated stocks were down a pound. Treasury 13¾ per cent 2000-03, the long tap oversubscribed 10 times in hectic dealing just over a week ago finished at 21¾ after 22¼. Here it is not much above the £20½ issue price.

The short tap, Treasury 15 per cent 1985 closed at 98½. The issue price last week was £98½. Elsewhere in shorts Treasury 9½ per cent 1983 slid £9/16 to £83-11/16 while in longer dated issues Treasury 11½ per cent 2001-04 weakened £1¼ to £81¼.

However prices were attempting to harden in late trading as news trickled through of several United States prime rate cuts, including Crocker, St Louis County Bank and Bankers Trust. If the trend persists, the market will probably try to go better this morning.

Oils were again among the most active sectors, but yesterday for a change, most of the movement was down rather than up thanks to the withdrawal of the mystery bidder for Oil Exploration, itself merging with Lasmo.

With the institutions tapped for more than £900m in little over a week ordinary shares were again overshadowed. Business was extremely thin but in terms of the FT Index equities are trying to keep above the 400 mark.

At 10 am the index was 2.5 off and at 2 pm the drop had steepened to 3.4. But then there was a tiny rally and at the close the FT Index was only 1.5 down at 407.1. The ordinary dividend yield is now nearly 8 per cent.

Leading Industrials were dull but a slight rally after hours left them off the bottom to finish at their best level of the day. ICI were 1p firmer at 352p and gains of a couple of pence were achieved with Glaxo at 398p and Beecham at 119. Courtaulds and Rank both remained firm at 80p and 182p but Fisons and Pilkington Brothers both dipped 3p to 229p and 240p.

Most interest, however, continued to be centred on oils where the early announcement that talks between Oil Exploration and its mystery bidder had broken down sent the share price plummeting 104p to 690p. This in turn dragged merger partner—LASMO down 28p to 365p. Other North Sea oil shares to drift included Cawoods 19p lower at 142p, International Thomson 5p down at 374p, Atlantic Assets 12p easier at 134p and Imperial Continental Gas 3p lighter at 610p. Weekend comment helped National Carbonising buck the trend finishing 4p firmer at 122p and Tricentrol which improved 10p to 283p.

Among the major oils BP gained 12p to 378p ahead of the third-quarter figures expected later this week, while the new improved 7p to 171p. Shell were 4p better and Burmah put on a penny to 177p but Ultramar dipped 2p to 398p.

Among companies reporting Burnett & Hallamshire improved 10p to 440p following its interim statement and Dawson International rose 2p to 86p. J. E. Sanger remained firm at 20p after its trading statement and Yarrow slipped 5p to 305p after some disappointing figures. Losses at Stag Line sent the shares falling 11p to 140p. Weekend press comment helped A. Monk rise 4p to 44p, and Tarmac a penny to 180p, but Fitch Lovell and P and O both remained unchanged at 72p and 100p.

Friday's news that GEC's offer for Avery's had gone unconditional sent the latter's shares climbing 13p to 261p and GEC firmed 2p to 329p. Elsewhere on the bid front EMI improved a penny to 135p but Thorn slipped 4p to 302p. Renewed speculation saw Whessoe gain a couple of pence as shareholders continued to patiently await news of the talks which have been taking place with Costa in. But by the close the shares finished unchanged at 128p.

Shares of Morgan Edwards and Louis C. Edwards were both suspended at 76½p and 38½p while talks on a possible merger take place.

Meanwhile, shares of Coral Leisure fell 9p to 63p following charges against one of the directors Mr Bernard Coral and were closely followed by Ladbroke which dropped 8p to 144p.

Engineering proved a weak sector with early losses being maintained. Lucas eased 4p to 204p following its annual report while falls of a similar amount were registered in Dowty at 130p and Tubes at 254p. GKN were 2p off at 238p but bullish weekend comment help Glynwed resist the trend to finish 1½p better at 79p.

In eelctricals Muirhead were wanted ahead of Thursday's statement and advanced 10p to 258p. Plessey were a penny lighter at 108p and among those to finish firm were Racal at 219p, Decca at 180p, Unitech at 198p and Electrocomponents at 413p.

Equity turnover on November 23, was £73.934m (11,420 bargains). Active shares yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, Oil Exploration, Lasmo, BP New, Tricentrol, National Carbonising, BP, Premier Oil, P and O, ICI and European Ferries.

Control gear manufacturers Cableform moved ahead yesterday by 5p to 75p on rumours of a takeover bid. There is speculation that a bid for Cableform may well come from Tricentrol, although it is believed a United States group is taking an interest in the company.

The shares of Cover Plus paints group Donald Macpherson, at 84p, are beginning to look interesting. A 17 per cent profits hike at the interim stage went almost unnoticed and it is thought that there will be a similar rise for the year. Chairman of the paints and DIY concern, Mr Rex Chester, reports buoyant trading.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
J. Burrough (I)	17.07(14.31)	1.24(1.79)	—(—)	1.62(1.47)	14/12	—(—)
Chamber Phipps (I)	31(28)	1.7(1.5)	4.10(3.67)	1.1(1.0)	7/1	—(2.8)
Colmore Inv (I)	9.2(7.21)	0.1(0.09)	—(—)	1.0(1.0)	18/3	—(2.4)
Concentric (F)	38.3(33.2)	2.42(1.51)	12.08(5.29)	2.1(1.67)	15/1	3.2(2.67)
Country Gents (I)	1.14(1.04)	0.014a (0.015a)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Dawson Int (I)	56.3(44.9)	7.4(6.6)	—(—)	3(3)	20/12	—(7.0)
Derritron (I)	2.69(1.66)	0.14(0.3)	0.51(1.15)	0.57(0.55)	1/2	—(0.81)
G. H. Downing (I)	7.85(6.99)	0.75(1.05)	12.44(15.75)	—(—)	—	—(7.75)
J. H. Fenner (F)	91.8(80.5)	7.6(9)	16.61(20.8)	4.92(4.48)	—	8.2(7.4)
Edward Jones (I)	1.44(1.65)	0.04a(0.06a)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Morgan Edwards (I)	10.5(8)	0.14(0.14)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Municipal Props (I)	0.12(0.1)	0.1(0.1)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(5.6)
Sumrie Clothes (I)	2.31(2.27)	0.09(0.07)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(2.5)
Yarrow (F)	13(6.75)	0.5(0.6)	24.7(22.5)	5.65(3.45)	—	7.5(5.15)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and

J H Fenner regains some ground to end year 15pc down

By Alison Mitchell

Despite higher interest rates and the strength of sterling, power transmission engineers J. H. Fenner made some headway in the second half.

Following a first six months when the group was crippled by strikes, and profits fell by almost a quarter, the group maintained the downturn at 15 per cent for the year as a whole. In the 12 months to September 1, 1979 pre-tax profits amounted to £7.6m against a previous £9m on turnover 14 per cent higher at £91.88m.

Chairman, Mr Joseph Palmer, thinks that the group would have done even better in the second half had the dollar/sterling rate been lower.

The group earns around 35 to 40 per cent of its profits overseas but Mr Palmer reports that the entire downturn is attributable to the United Kingdom divisions.

Interest charges in the period rose from £929,000 to £1.7m while depreciation was almost £500,000 higher at £2.26m.

Although the chairman would not quantify the cost of the disputes he reports that last year's profits would have been at least equalled without the disruptions, indicating that they clipped £1.5m from the pre-tax figure.

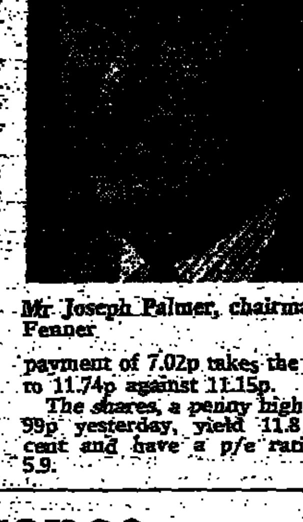
The American side did better than expected turning an interim loss into a break even for the year as a whole and is continuing to trade profitably.

The chairman does not see the year's slippage as any more than a hiccough in continually growing earnings. "The reversal in the profits trend is not indicative of the group's fundamental trading strength or potential," he said.

Earnings are well ahead of the same period last year and the order book is at a "healthy level", he added.

As if underlining this confidence, the dividend has been raised by 10 per cent. A final payment of 7.02p takes the total to 11.74p against 11.15p.

The shares, a penny higher at 99p yesterday, yield 11.8 per cent and have a p/e ratio of 5.9.



Mr Joseph Palmer, chairman of Fenner

Concentric in 60pc advance

West Midlands-based engineers Concentric managed a massive 60 per cent uplift in pre-tax profits for the year ending September 29, 1979 on turnover which only increased by 15 per cent.

The company which produces controls and assemblies for the domestic automotive and engineering industries bounced back from last year's sharp downturn to produce taxable profits of £2.42m compared with £1.51m —less than a £100,000 off Concentric's all-time record.

The cautious optimism expressed at the halfway stage by the former chairman Mr Denis Dodds appears to have understated Concentric's path to recovery. At the time he declared the second-half figures would be as good as the first six months. In the event the company has managed to improve on first half profits of £1.06m by more than 28 per cent.

All this has been achieved on sales which have only improved from £33.233m to £38.35m and has resulted in a 128 per cent uplift in earnings per 10p share from 5.29p to 12.08p.

The board under the new chairmanship of Mr John Perks, who succeeded Mr Dodds in September, is not singling out any single division as contributing to the group's turnaround. Mr Perks attributes the improved performance to good management.

"Those who have followed Concentric over the years", say the board, "will know that after a reverse we always bounce back. This year we have done just that, despite all external influences which have harassed us and which we are beginning to regard as normal rather than abnormal."

Mr Gulliver to link two Edwards

By Alison Mitchell

Mr James Gulliver, who makes a business of rousing sleepy companies from their slumber, has started the ball rolling at Louis C. Edwards and Morgan Edwards.

The shares of the groups—which are unrelated apart from Gulliver Foods' stake in both—were suspended yesterday. Louis C. Edwards, at 38½p, in front of reorganization particulars, and Morgan Tdwards, at 76½p, pending merger announcements.

Louis C. Edwards, in which Gulliver has a 20 per cent holding, and the option to buy a further 9.9 per cent, is asking shareholders to take up a rights issue for the second time in six months. The group is raising £500,000 by way of a one-for-ten rights at 33½p and the issue is to be underwritten by Gulliver which is taking up its 20 per cent entitlement. Gulliver paid 5p a share for its initial holding less than 12 months ago.

The group raised £1.2m at the end of April, and chairman Mr David Webster did not rule out the prospect of further rights issues to finance expansion.

Louis C. Edwards needs the money to buy freezer foods group Cordon Bleu, for which it is paying up to £2.65m. Of this, £1m will be paid in cash and a similar sum in shares. The balance will depend on Cordon Bleu's profits in the current year.

In the 12 months to August 31, 1979, Cordon turned in pre-tax profits of £520,00 on sales of £16.7m. Net tangible assets amount to £1.4m.

Louis C. Edwards is also buying Cornwall company Furniss for £480,000 cash. Profits in 1978 amounted to £115,000 on sales of £696,000 and the 1979 profit figure is likely to be about the same.

No stopping Burnett

By Our Financial Staff

Burnett & Hallamshire, the construction and opencast mining group, is more than maintaining its strong growth record with pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of September up from £1.62m to £2.8m.

The results have been boosted by a maiden contribution from the purchase of Lowes Oils in April this year which roughly doubled the size of the group's oil distribution interests. There will also be the benefit in the second half of the recent acquisition of Mining Investment Corporation, which owns coal mining concessions mostly in the United Kingdom, for £11½m.

At the moment B&H is putting considerable effort into integrating Mincorp "to realize the potential of the prospective mining sites acquired".

Otherwise, the improvement has come across the board of the group's activities. The construction side in particular has seen some profits recovery especially in the building and civil engineering companies

The interim dividend has been more than doubled to 5p a share gross, which pushed the shares 10p higher to 440p.

Development costs blow to Yarrow

Despite a doubling of turnover to £13m pre-tax profits at Yarrow whose shipbuilding interests were nationalized two years ago, fell by nearly £100,000 to £507,000.

The difference was caused chiefly by much higher development and management costs. Of £333,000 spent under this heading, about half was written off in research on new areas of business.

Interest on compensation stock rose from £137,000 last year to £311,000. The company received on account another payment of Treasury Stock 9½ per cent, 1981, worth £850,000. Compensation so far amounts to about £2.5m.

But the company stresses that since it values the nationalized assets at between £15m and £20m and that interest on compensation is backdated to July 1, 1977, profits are understated by an unquantified amount.

Yarrow is seeking acquisitions in high technology and consultancy companies. These will mesh with what was left of the company after nationalization and with subsequent purchases.

English & Scottish refinancing

English & Scottish Investors has refinanced its overseas investments with direct purchases of local currencies by selling around £2.5m of government long dated stocks and the disposal of about £2m of equities. E & S has also repaid all its dollar loans amounting to $10.5m.

Roughly 32 per cent of English & Scottish's investment portfolio is overseas with about half located in the United States and the remainder in the Far East.

Refinancing has taken place following the removal of exchange controls and the lifting of regulations concerning overseas investments.

Cheerful outlook at Utd City Merchants

Judging by the management reports for the first four months of the current year and by the value of the order book, the United City Merchants' chairman, Mr E. C. Sosnow, is confident of another successful year. Profits for the year should be more than adequate to maintain the dividend on the capital as increased by the scrip issue. The removal of exchange control restrictions is already helping in the smooth running of UCM's transactions in foreign currencies and opened new possibilities to finance the international trade at the best possible world interest rates.

Fisons deal in Australia

Drugs - to - fertiliser group Fisons has taken over the $A6m turnover Australian Protea Pharmaceuticals in a cash deal. Also included are Protea's subsidiaries Difrex Laboratories and Drugs & Chemicals. Fisons says that Protea will continue to trade in its own name and with its existing staff and management. The group's pharmaceuticals division achieved sales of £68m in 1978 and at the 1979 half-way stage sales were up 15 per cent over the same period last year.

Tunnel Hldgs to sub-divide shares

Tunnel Holdings is proposing to sub-divide its 50p A, B, and C shares into shares of 25p each. It also proposes to amend the objects clause of the company's memorandum of association and to adopt new articles of association.

Stag Line tumbles into losses

Shipowners Stag Line slumped into pretax losses of £689,000 for the year ended October 31, 1979, compared with a profit last time of £618,000. Turnover eased fractionally to £2.51m against £2.52m. Stag Line's attributable loss comes out at £352,000, compared with a profit of £317,000, after a £336,000 tax credit. The company produced a loss per share of 28.95p in contrast with a profit of 25.77p.

Bad winter knocks G H Downing

Last year's severe winter and the widespread lack of demand for heavy capital electrical equipment has resulted in a 28 per cent fall in trading profits of G. H. Downing & Co. During the six months to September 30, 1979, profits dropped from £1.05m to £750,000, while turnover in the half-year increased by a little over 12 per cent to £7.85m. Sharp downturn in profits were experienced in the electrical goods and refractories divisions and the group's Dutch-based subsidiary turned in a £16,000 loss. The building materials side is holding up well say Downing and the board predict that with a normal winter it is reasonably confident of a satisfactory result for the year.

Delay at CGSB—Manor National

The boards of Manor National Group Motors and CGSB Holdings have announced a delay in posting the documents relating to the offers by Manor for CGSB.

Manor is still discussing with Ford Motor the financial and franchise implications of the proposed takeover, and it is likely that a decision will be made shortly. Consents have been obtained from all other suppliers.

In the light of current trading and rise in base lending rates, the Manor board now forecast that profits for 1979 will be not less than £1.1m but confirms no change in its intention regarding the final dividend.

The CGSB board has agreed to this modification.

E. Jones cuts loss at half-time

The loss-making building contracting group of Edward Jones managed to cut its deficit in the first half of this year. In spite of turnover slipping from £1.65m to £1.44, the pre-tax loss was reduced from £67,000 to £43,700. The board explain that the results reflect the abnormally severe weather in the first quarter. But the group is now experiencing improved trading and steps are being taken to settle outstanding claims on completed contracts.

Together with the sale of surplus development land, this should reduce the group's overdraft requirement by the year end.

Allied Irish Banks' $60m issue hit by clerks' ban

Manufacturers Hanover Ltd has postponed the issue of a planned $60m floating-rate note issue for Allied Irish Banks because of industrial action by Irish bank clerks.

Some bank branches in the Irish Republic had to close temporarily on Thursday last week following cash shortages resulting from a ban by clerks on all transactions involving sterling.

The eight-year notes were to have been issued at the weekend with interest at ¼ per cent over London Interbank Offered Rates (LIBOR). Manufacturers Hanover would not comment on when the issue would now be made.

UNION DE BANQUES Arabes et Francaises (UBAF) plans to issue a $65m, 10-year floating rate Eurobond with interest set one-quarter point above London interbank offered rates, banking sources said. Credit Lyonnais is lead-manager of the issue, which is scheduled to be launched within the next few days, reports Reuter from Paris.

MULTIBANCO COMERMEX of Mexico is raising $25m through the issue of five-year floating-rate notes, the lead manager, Manufacturers Hanover, said Interest is at ¼ per cent over London Interbank Offered Rates (LIBOR) with a minimum 6¼ per cent.

QUEBEC BOND.—Brussels.—A 40m European Unit of Account 15-year Province of Quebec bond with a 9¼ per cent indicated coupon, is reported by Reuter. Price not yet fixed by lead manager, Kreditbank International group.

SHK FINANCE.—Hongkong.—Sun Hung Kai Finance is to issue up to $75m (HK) of negotiable floating-rate certificates of deposits due December, 1982, with subscriptions opening now and closing on December 6.

The interest rate, payable six-monthly, will be the higher of either ⅛ per cent above the average one-month HK dollar rate quoted by Barclays Bank International here or ¼ per cent above the average best lending rate of the Hongkong and

Euromarkets

Shanghai Banking Corp and Chartered Bank here. Co-managers are Trident International Finance and BNP Finance (Hongkong) Ltd.—Reuter.

NORGES KOMMUNALBANK.—Frankfurt.—The coupon for a DM150m issue by Norges Kommunalbank was dropped to 8¼ per cent from 8½ per cent and the issue price set at par, it was announced by lead manager, Westdeutsche Landesbank Gironzentrale. The issue will have a maturity of 15 years with five years of grace followed by 10 equal payments.

THOMAS BORTHWICK

FMC Ltd and Midland Cattle Products (a subsidiary of Thomas Borthwick) announce that discussions are being held with a view to the acquisition by MCP of FMC's animal by-products businesses at Stoke Bardolph and Calne.

PHILLIPS PATENTS (HOLDINGS)

The petition for the confirmation of the reduction of capital by cancellation of 7½ per cent preference share capital was heard on November 19 when the High Court made the required Order confirming the reduction of capital.

BURNDENE INVESTMENTS

Although turnover remained virtually unchanged at £9.38m for the 53 weeks to June 2, 1979, against £9.25m for the previous 52 weeks, pre-tax profits for caravan and mobile homes manufacturer, Burndene Investments improved by 26 per cent to £395,000.

HARRIS QUEENSWAY GROUP

Formal offer on behalf of Harris's subsidiary, Hardy (Furnishers) for the £247,000 preference stock in Hardy's offshoot, Phillips Furnishing Stores, has been posted. Eight properties owned by Phillips have been sold for £5.81m cash. Credit sale businesses of Hardy's sold to Tricity Finance for about £13.5m.

BULMER & LUMB

Turnover for half-year to October 7 £13.41m (£14.52m). Pre-tax profit, £663,000 (£876,000).

RCF HOLDINGS

Although the engineering dispute has seriously affected RCF's profitability for the first two months of the current year, it has enabled it to make "material reductions" in stocks, reports Mr John Godfrey, the chairman. Sales and orders received since the dispute was resolved have been encouraging.

CRELLON HOLDINGS

At an extraordinary meeting the following resolutions were passed: The acceptance by the company from Radiogear Enterprises Inc of the £243,821 10 per cent convertible secured loan 1982 and the issue by the company on April 23, 1979 of 3,292,667 preferred shares of 10p each and 1,197,333 ordinary shares of 10p each.

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS

Stocklake has continued to trade profitably and present indications are that results for the year should not be "unsatisfactory", reports Mr A. M. McKay, the chairman, in his annual statement.

JAMES BURROUGH

Sales for half-year to August 31, £17.07m (£14.31m). Pre-tax profit, £1.24m (£1.79m). Indications are

Briefly

that second-half profits will be about the same as first's. Company is quoted on the over-the-counter market.

SUMRIE CLOTHES

Turnover for half-year to September 29, £2.31m (£2.27m). Pre-tax profit, £99,000 (£72,000). Board optimistic of a "satisfactory year-end result".

LEY'S FOUNDRIES

Ley's Foundries and George Fischer Group have reached agreement on formation of a joint company to develop the manufacture of malleable, nodular and grey iron castings using Ley's Lincoln works. Joint company, in which Ley's and Fischer will each have 50 per cent, will be called Leys George Fischer.

HENSHER (FURNITURE TRADES)

All companies are currently trading profitably with reasonable order books, reports chairman. Recent revaluation of group properties showed surplus of almost £1.03m over book values.

CAPITAL & COUNTIES

The once-beleaguered property group, Capital & Counties, reports pre-tax revenue of £3.54m for the six months to September 29, 1979, against £2.32m last time. The group's property income was up marginally to £3.39m compared with £3.13m.

HOWARD & WYNDHAM

Sales during the year to June 30, 1979, of the Howard & Wyndham group fell from £16.34m to £15.23m while trading profits excluding exchange differences came out at £251,000, compared with £732,000 last time.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

Turnover for half-year-to June 30 up from £105,000 to £121,000. Pre-tax profit, £108,000 (£110,000).

WARRIOR RESOURCES

Largest issue of shares via a Canadian stockbroking firm was made when Mead & Co., through its London and Vancouver offices placed 3.5m shares mainly with a number of British institutional investors at C$2 each to raise C$7m.

DRAKE AND SCULL

At an extraordinary meeting of Drake and Scull Holdings, the group's proposed capital reduction programme was passed by shareholders.

COUNTRY GENTLEMEN'S

Turnover for half-year to September 30, £1.14m (£1.04m) Pre-tax loss £14,000 (loss £15,000). Board says major policy changes have caused expenses in redundancy and stock losses which will not recur.

Business appointments

Group director for brewers

Mr Ian A. Martin has been appointed a group director of Watney Mann and Truman Brewers.

Mr J. Hanlon has become production director of Eley.

Mr John H. Shone has joined Robert Wilson & Sons (Est. 1849) as director in charge of marketing and sales.

Mr J. Rooke has been appointed a director of Sterling Credit Group.

Mr John Moore has been made a director of London and Yorkshire Trust.

Mr T. D. M. Hart has become a director of Vaux Breweries.

Mr R. B. Ropner has joined the board of Stag Line.

Mr N. J. Clark has been appointed a director of Andrew R. Findlay Group.

Sir W. Nicholas Cayzer has been elected chairman of Meldrum Investment Trust in succession to the late Mr M. G. Talbot Rice. Mr S. Stevenson has been made a director.

Mr Peter H. Dean, a director of Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, has been appointed a non-executive member, and Mr John B. Williams, port director, Southampton, as an executive member of the British Transport Docks Board.

Mr D. H. Henderson, chairman of ICI paints division, has been appointed an ICI director from March 1, 1980.

Mr I. A. Norrington is to join the partnership of Grieveson, Grant and Co.

Mr Noel W. Deeks and Mr Michael J. Prince have been appointed joint managing directors of James Walker Goldsmith and Silversmith in succession to Mr Gerald S. Sanders and Mr Anthony W. Metherell who remain as chairman and deputy chairman respectively.

David Dixon/Montfort

A third party intervenes

The latest takeover battle in the textile industry between David Dxon and Montfort (Knitting Mills) is entering the next stage today on the first closing date.

But the saga is certain to become more acrimonious after the intervention of another privately-owned textile group and the repercussions may go as far as the Takeover Panel before the outcome is known.

Palma Textile Group, which is Leicester-based like Montfort and owned by Mr Peter Bailey, bought an 11.95 stake in Montfort through the market in the last two weeks. Mr Bailey immediately announced his intention of rejecting Dixon's £2.5m offer but did not comment on the possibility of trying to frustrate Dixon's offer or initiate his own bid. Montfort, which is opposing the offer, has since said that more than half its shareholders support it.

David Dixon, which will extend the cash and share offer and probably eventually increase it from the current price of 84p a share, is furious. Its financial adviser, Barclays Merchant Bank which says it is "not unknown for fighting" has been studying Rule 37 of the Takeover Code.

This states that anyone with a commercial interest in the outcome of an offer must consult the panel in advance over dealings in the market and show that the action is not prejudicial to the shareholders' interests.

David Dixon's chairman, Mr Harry Turpin, said yesterday that the group would be prepared to approach the Takeover Panel if there was "any evidence of collusion" between Montfort and Palma. "But we have plenty of time to decide as there are weeks yet before the offer will finally close", he added. Dixon holds almost 11 per cent of Montfort.

Palma's motives for rejecting Dixon's offer, apart from price consideration as Montfort's shares currently stand at 87p, are linked with its tights and socks manufacturing operation. Mr Bailey claims that his profit, believed to be £830,000 in 1977, is greater than those of either Dixon or Montfort. Last year Dixon's pre-tax profit was £863,000, while Montfort's amounted to £528,000, although the former is due to report its figures this Friday.

But Mr Bailey's turnover, which he reckons is on a par with the other two groups' £10m, for 1978-9 was hit this summer by a fire which destroyed much of his stock. Montfort's, which has its head office near by, and Dixons gained custom from the disaster although Mr Bailey stressed that Palma's production had now restarted. Another factor is that the recent rise in interest rates may prevent private companies from making bids for some time.

In explaining his purchase of the Montfort stake, Mr Bailey added that Palma has held an 11 per cent declared stake in Towles, another Leicestershire textile group and a number of other undeclared holdings in the industry.

Mr Alan Norman, deputy chairman of Montfort's which reiterated its warnings over the Dixon offer last week in a leter to shareholders, said that the group would have been confident of fighting off the bid even before Mr Bailey's intervention, which brought its support from shareholders opposed to the deal to more than 50 per cent.

"Mr Bailey acted quite independently and we would now hope that Dixons will withdraw its offer." This is the third time that Dixons has tried to take over Montfort. The first two approaches were informal talks to which Montfort gave the thumbs down.

Mr Norman added that Montfort did not expect to receive an offer from Palma or that it would fear such a bid. "There is no real logic in it making a bid as the dependence on one sector would become too great, I would think", said Mr Norman.

Rosemary Unsworth

John Fairfax group buys stake in Herald

John Fairfax Limited has bought just under 15 per cent of the share capital of the Herald and Weekly Times for some $A50m. Fairfax Chairman Mr James Fairfax declined to give exact details, or figures, or to disclose the vendor of the shares, but the purchase represents about 9.49m shares out of Herald's 63.25m issued capital.

This figure indicates that Fairfax paid about $5.26 unit, compared with the stock's closing price in Melbourne of $3.65 and $3.60 in Sydney.

Fairfax said it does not seek a controlling interest in the Herald group and noted that while the cost of the shares was substantially over current market values, they were regarded as a sound long-term investment.

The purchase was also aimed at ensuring the continued independence of the Herald group newspapers.

Last week, Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Limited made an unsuccessful bid for control of the Herald group.

Phelps Dodge

Phelps Dodge, the United States mining company, turned a third quarter loss last year into a $16m profit this year. Net income was $64.8m compared with $14m in 1978.

The company says that the much better results mainly reflect improved copper prices. Production was up from 70,800 tons in the third quarter of last year to 82,700 tons in the same period of 1979. Production for the nine months was 259,800 tons against 232,600 tons.

Nevertheless, the average realized price for copper was somewhat less than in the previous quarter. Prices started at 86 cents a pound and ended at $1.05. The average was 95 cents.

Massey Ferguson

Massey-Ferguson said that preliminary world-wide settlement sales for the year ended October 31 totalled $3,170m, up from $2,920m in 1978.

A company spokesman said settlement sales are "sales to final customers", sales in which

International

contracts have already been signed and actually sold up to the year-end.

The company said sales in the fourth quarter totalled $1,030m. The highest of any quarter in the company's history.

Preliminary world-wide whole-sale sales for the year were $3,260m compared with $2,870m in 1978. The final figures, which are not yet available, will be released during the week of December 17.

The company said there appears to be "no reason to change the forecast made earlier that it will reach an operating break-even position in its financial results for the year, before exchange and unusual items."

With respect to the financing plans announced in August, the company said it was reviewing the timing of such action and is awaiting a report, expected in mid-December from its financial advisors.—Reuter.

Hudson Bay jumps

Earnings before extraordinary items at the Hudson Bay company almost doubled in the first nine months to C$22m (£8.66m). Earnings per share were C$1.18 against C$1.10.

But the company warns that the figures were inflated by the inclusion of earnings from acquisitions and the 36 per cent interest in Simpson-Sears.

Otherwise sales were below expectations because of the need to offset high inventories by marking down stocks. Financing costs were also above expectations.

Despite continued strength in retail sales, earnings for the whole year are expected to be below plan. The company warns that earnings objectives are unlikely to be achieved.

A quarterly dividend of 27½ cents has been declared.

Milan Bourse chief

Milan Bourse chairman Giorgio Aloisio de Gaspari said he sees room for a recovery of Bourse prices at the start of next year, after recent falls which he considers have been excessive.

"I would be ready to bet that in the first few months of 198[illegible] the Bourse will again start to g[illegible] up", he told Reuters in a[illegible] interview.

After reaching a high o[illegible] October 5 of 36.5 per cent abov[illegible] its levels at the start of 197[illegible] the Bourse went into a down ward trend in the wake of a 1[illegible] per cent rise in bank rate a[illegible] banks' lending rates.

At the close of the mark[illegible] on Friday, the Milan Bour[illegible] general index covering a[illegible] shares stood at 1,178 (base Ja[illegible]uary 2, 1979), 13.7 per cent dow[illegible] on its peak for the year, b[illegible] 17.8 per cent up on prices[illegible] the start of 1979.

Aloisio said the drop in pri[illegible] following the increases [illegible] interest rates had gone beyo[illegible] his expectations and he thoug[illegible] that it had been excessiv[illegible] giving all the more reason f[illegible] a subsequent upturn in prices.

The Bourse is still 17.8 p[illegible] cent above its levels at the sta[illegible] of 1979 and this is a good ba[illegible] for further gains at least u[illegible] the spring, when compani[illegible] make dividend payments f[illegible] 1979, he said.

Beyond next spring it is ha[illegible] to make market predictions, [illegible] inflationary expectations [illegible] likely to fall as inflation he[illegible] slows, while some efforts [illegible] being made to save energy he[illegible] Aloisio said.

The upheaval in Iran and [illegible] effects on world markets can[illegible] help but have an effect on [illegible] Milan bourse as well.

But the market appears to [illegible] resisting these pressures.

…ellon asks …listing …be …ncelled

…Financial Staff

…gured Crellon Holdings …requested its Stock …ge listing to be can… and in future all trading … electronics company will …er Rule 163 (2), which … dealings in unlisted …ies.

… decision, which has been … since last August, fol… extraordinary general … held last Friday. At … meeting … shareholders …ed the increase of the …y's authorized share … from £2m to £3m by …eation of 10m new 10p …y shares.

…headed by "company …" Mr Geoffrey Rose, the …nics group has encoun… difficulties since the …r was called into the …mp subsidiary in April. …e package, involving the …n of around £1m con… loan stock, was …d by major Crellon …lder, Anthony Gibbs …ent Management at the … April.

…within two months it was …ry to sell off another … subsidiary, Crellon …nics, to Thorn for …0.

…e business of the group, …aded by Israeli business…r Joseph Eiger, was sub…ly changed by the sale … major offshoot it has …nown for some time the …would apply for the can…n of its listing.

…mberlain …ects …of some 15pc

…emary Unsworth

…te the rise in inflation …oblems with the supply …ice of oil, Chamberlain … the footwear-to-car-trim …cturer has boosted … by 15 per cent at half-…nd expects to see a … increase for the full …

…ix profits rose from … to £1.7m and turnover …ed by 11 per cent to … in the six months to …ber 30 1979. Trading …from the footwear divi…which supply the indus…h materials rose from … to £1.3m while the … industries' contribution …ed by £100,000 to …0.

… interim dividend has …oosted from 1.54p gross … and it is expected that …l will show an increase … with the profits rise.

Options

…tions on the traded … market remained quiet …y and by the close had … from last Friday's …f 516 contracts to 252. …rs experienced some … buying in British …m ahead of the third-… figures on Thursday …ne late trading in Con…d Gold Fields.

…tional options were … busier with oil shares … most interest although …alls and doubles were …n Ladbroke and Coral

…nt Issues

	Closing Price
…% Pf 1984 (…)	18
…s:	171+7
Ord	61
10½% Cum Pf	97
13…% Db 2000-05 (£…)	£90…
J. 13…% Db 2000-05 (£…)	£91
…g 11½% Cum Pf	99
…% 2000-02 (£91b)	£21…
985 (…)	£98…
…% Cum Pf	95½

…ce in parentheses. * Ex dividend. … tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £10 paid. b £20 … paid. g 150p paid.

…ank Base Rates

… Bank	17%
…lays Bank	17%
… I Bank	17%
…solidated Crdts	17%
…oare & Co	*17%
…ds Bank	17%
…don Mercantile	17%
…land Bank	17%
… Westminster	17%
…sminster	17%
…	17%
…iams and Glyn's	17%

… day deposit on sums of …0,000 and under 15%, up …£25,000 15¼%, over …5,000 15½%.

Growing concern overseas about self-regulation and ethics

While discussions about the supervision of the London commodity markets following the dismantling of exchange controls are going on, with new agreements between the Bank of England and the market associations planned so that the Bank can continue its monitoring role, there is evidence of growing concern among overseas markets about both self-regulation and ethics.

Fifty-eight companies in Switzerland have decided unanimously to form a Swiss commodity industry association. The objects of the association are to promote friendly relations between members, to provide a basis for self-regulation to achieve high ethical standards and to promote the common interests of the members, according to the draft statutes.

The association will be founded on January 16 and interested parties have until December 31 to nominate board members and suggest statutes.

Eligible for membership are commodity dealers, financial institutions and commodity merchants. At present coordination is handled by Interbusiness Services AG, of Zurich.

In Kuala Lumpur, Mr Paul Leong, the Malaysian Primary Industries Minister, has called on the 19 or so commodities futures trading companies based in Kuala and Penang to form an association as soon as possible and establish a code of ethics.

He said that a Bill to implement the proposed Kuala Lumpur exchange provided for regulation of the activities of futures trading companies but, in the meantime, pending approval by parliament, he urged the companies to refrain from business practices which were detrimental to the public.

He hoped that the benefits of futures trading as an important tool of modern and sophisticated commodities marketing would accrue to Kuala Lumpur and improve the marketing of Malaysia's major commodities.

It was therefore imperative that a good image of futures trading was maintained and to ensure this, futures brokers and dealers were expected to maintain a high standard of integrity and discipline and not to prejudice the inception of the exchange, he said.

His Ministry would keep a close watch against excessive speculation and it wished to foster development of healthy trading in commodity futures and not a commodity casino.

But he acknowledged that the rapid growth in futures trading companies in the past two years would no doubt help in realizing the government's objective of introducing futures trading in Malaysia's major commodities on the proposed exchange.

At present the exchange is scheduled to begin operations around April-May of next year with palm oil as the first traded commodity.

Although Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board, recently gave a warning about "speculative" loans, some American banks are to continue to finance futures trading.

First National Bank of Chicago, which had established a futures financing department shortly before Mr Volcker's warning, is to make loans for hedging, spreading and arbitraging.

Mr Robert Yohanan, who heads the bank's commodities and securities operation, believes the futures markets are sufficiently important to make a strong commitment to financing participants with growing interest in New York and increasing use in Chicago.

In California, Bank of America has told account officers not to make loans for "non-productive or speculative purposes" but does not include commodity companies in this category.

New York's Citibank has said that it has had no major change in policy regarding financing futures activity. It added that most futures financing was for day-to-day operations such as hedging and was not speculative.

Some banking sources have said that it was not clear just what the Fed meant by "speculative". Mr Leo Melamed, the Mercantile Exchange special counsel, has said that to be viable a futures market must have probably at least 50 per cent investor or speculative activity and others have said that such "speculation" is necessary for the markets to perform their legitimate function.

A Belgian economic mission visiting Malaysia was told by Ahmad Farouk Haji Ishak, acting controller of the Rubber Research Institute Malaysia, that the World Bank had forecast a bright future for the international natural rubber industry. Demand for rubber would increase to 14m tonnes by next year, 19m by 1985 and 24m by 1990.

Wall Street

New York, Nov 26.—Stocks pushed strongly ahead in heavy trading this morning buoyed by the relief that interest rates are at or near a peak. Advances led declines nearly four-to-one and the Dow Jones industrial averaged jumped nine points.

Analysts said investors were also encouraged by the call for talks on Iran by the United Nations Security Council. They said so long as the parties are talking, there is less danger of escalation of the crisis.

General Motors gained 7/8 to 52-1/8, Du Pont 7/8 to 41, IBM 7/8 to 62-7/8 and Teledyne 1-5/8 to 135.

Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

Commodities

COPPER was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £981.83 a metric ton; three months, £993.94. Sales, 4,350. Cash cathodes, £ ; three months £ . Sales, tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £1,001.50-1,002.00; three months, £1,013.14. Settlement, £1,002. Sales, 6,425 tons. Cash cathodes, £976.77; three months, £990.91. Settlement, £977. Sales, 800 tons.

SILVER was steadier.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot 755.90p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,628); three months 779.30p (1,668.70c); six months, 795.90p (1,694.20c); one year, 841.30p (1,769.30c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash 760-61.5p; three months 783-84p. Sales, 82 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 769.60p; three months, 736-81p. Settlement, 760p. Sales, 136 lots.

TIN was steady.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £7,660-7,700 a metric ton; three months, £7,380-7,400. Sales, 125 tons. High grade, cash £7,680-7,700; three months, £7,390-7,410. Sales, nil tons. Morning.—Standard cash, £7,710-15; three months, £7,360-70. Settlement, £7,715. Sales, 150 tons. High grade, cash, £7,715-25; three months, £7,390-7,400. Settlement, £7,725. Sales, 60 tons. Singapore tin ex-works, $M2,067 a picul.

LEAD was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash £540.41 per metric ton; three months £526-27. Sales, 4,075 tons. Morning.—Cash, £533-34; three months, £522-23. Settlement, £534. Sales, 8,600 tons.

ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £331-35 a metric ton; three months, £339-40. Sales, 1,435 tons. Morning.—Cash, £329-30; three months, £338-38.50. Settlement, £330. Sales, 1,225 tons. All afternoon prices are unofficial.

PLATINUM was at £236.95 ($511) a troy ounce.

ALUMINIUM was quietly steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £873-78 per metric ton; three months, £805-807. Sales, 2,650 tons. Morning.—Cash, £870-75; three months, £806-806. Settlement, £875. Sales, 3,350 tons.

NICKEL was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,730-35 per metric ton; three months, £2,785-90. Sales, 102 tons. Morning.—Cash, £2,730-40; three months, £2,785-90. Settlement, £2,740. Sales, 108 tons.

RUBBER was quiet (pence per kilo): Dec, 63.90-65.00. Jan, 65.25-65.35; Jan-March, 66.40-66.45; April-June, 68.20-68.25; July-Sept, 70.30-70.39; Oct-Dec, 72.75-72.85; Jan-March, 75.35-75.40; April-June, 77.80-77.90; July-Sept, 80.25-80.30. Sales, seven at five tonnes, 140 at 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet.—Spot, 64-65.00. Cifs, Dec expired: Jan, 66.25-66.75; Feb, 67.25-68.00.

COFFEE was steady (£ per tonne).—

ROBUSTAS (£ per metric ton).—Nov, 1843-45; Jan, 1870-72; March, 1737-39; May 1716-19; July 1708-09; Sep 1697-1700; Nov 1684-85. Sales, 4,086 lots including 9 options.

COCOA was firm (£ per metric ton).—Dec, 1,510-15; March, 1,503-4; May, 1,510-11; July, 1,528-30; Sept, 1,550-55; Dec, 1,565-80; March, 1,580-95. Sales, 3,747 lots. ICCO prices, daily (Nov 23), 138.86c; indicator prices (Nov 26), 15-day average, 135.22c; 22-day average, 133.26c. (United States cents per lb.)

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was unchanged at £160; the "whites" price was £2 higher at £183.50. Futures (£ per tonne).—Old contract (irregular): Dec 166-68; Mch 183.45-83.50; May 183.40-83.75; Aug 183.60-83.75; Oct 183.75-83.90. Sales, 5,714 lots. New contract (quiet).—May, 182-82.50; Aug, 182-82.50; Oct, 182.05-82.25; Jan, 179-8; March, 181.60-82.00; May, 181-81.90. Sales, 470 lots. ISA prices (Nov 23): 14.09c; 15-day average, 13.56.

White sugar was quiet.—Feb, 185-86; April, 185-88; July, 186-95; Sept, 190-97; Nov, 191-98; Feb, 193-202; April, 195-205. Sales, 40 lots.

SOYABEAN MEAL was quiet (£ per tonne): Dec, 128.20-28.80; Feb, 128.00-28.20; April, 128.00-28.30; June, 127.00-28; Aug, 127.50-29.50. Sales, 30 lots.

WOOL.—Greasy futures (pence per kilo): Australian (quiet): Dec, 318-38; March, May, July, Oct, Dec and March, 232-42. Sales, nil. New Zealand crossbreds (quiet): Dec, 206-12; March, May, July, Oct, Dec and March, 203-08. Sales, nil.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—**WHEAT.**—Canadian western red spring unquoted. United States dark northern spring No 2, 14 per cent: Nov, £104.50; Dec, £105.75; Jan, £111.50 trans-shipment east coast. United States hard winter 13½ per cent: Jan, £108.50 trans-shipment east coast. EEC unquoted.

MAIZE.—United States/French: Nov, £117; Dec, £116 trans-shipment east coast. South African white unquoted. South African yellow: Dec-Jan, £79.25.

BARLEY.—English feed fob: Dec, £95.50; Jan-March, £102. All per tonne cif United Kingdom unless stated. London Grain Futures Market (Gafta).

EEC origin.—**BARLEY**: current cwt slightly easier; new cwt steady: Jan, £94.10; March, £98.50; May, £102.45; Sept, £95.15. Sales, 125 lots. **WHEAT**: current crop slightly easier; new cwt steady: Jan, £97.30; March, £101.65; May, £105.60; Sept, £98.30. Sales, 72 lots.

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Eastern	—	£95.20	£92.30
E. Midlands	£96.60	£95.90	—
N. East	—	—	—
Scotland	—	£100.60	£89.10

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Nov 26: GB cattle 75.98p per kglw (+1.77). UK sheep 116.5p per kgestdcw (−0.8). GB pigs 74.6p per kglw (−1.5). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 4.7 per cent average price 75.45p (+1.90). Sheep numbers up 8.9 per cent average price 114.8p (−3.2). Pig numbers up 6.7 per cent average price 74.6p (−1.6). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 12.8 per cent average price 78.89p (+0.35). Sheep numbers down 17.9 per cent average price 118.0p (+4.2). Pig numbers down 11.3 per cent average price 72.0p (+2.8).

TEA.—Demand was fairly good at the weekly auction but less general for the 47,776 packages on offer. Assams opened lower but closed dearer for selected lines. The few dooars offered were well supported and dearer. Africans were initially irregular and easier but closed often firm to dearer apart from plain liquoring poor leaf type. Sri Lanka received only fair demand with plain tea 1p to 3p lower. Brighter sorts remained fully firm. Highest price 158p for broken orange Pekoe bop from Sri Lanka.

LME metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver) were: Copper down 1,675 to 140,175; Tin up 295 to 1,818; Lead up 700 to 18,825; Zinc down 925 to 42,300; Aluminium down 500 to 10,500; Nickel down 120 to 5,562; Silver down 1,790,000 to 9,450,000 troy ounces.

Discount market

Conditions proved less comfortable than early pointers had suggested yesterday, nevertheless, discount houses were again able to find all the funds they needed without recourse to the Bank of England. This was the fifth successive business day with no intervention by the authorities.

Rates opened around 15¾-½ per cent and eased their way down to 14½ per cent during the first half of the morning. After that, money became less easy to find, and the market went exceedingly quiet.

Rates then firmed progressively, and they had to rise to around 16 per cent before balances began to respond once again in size. Then, some chunky amounts came out, and books were closed within a band of 15½ to 16 per cent.

On the plus side were bank balances from Friday a small amount above target and a small excess of Exchequer disbursements over Revenue receipts. These were offset by a small Treasury bill take-up and small increase in note circulation.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17%
(Last changed 15/11/79)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 17%

Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 16 Low 15½
Week Fixed: 16¼-15¾

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	16	2 months	15⅞
3 months	16⅛	3 months	16⅛

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) / Trades (Dis%)

2 months	16⅝-16¾	3 months	17¼
3 months	16⅝-16⅜	4 months	18⅛
4 months	16½-16⅛	6 months	18¼
6 months	15⅞-15⅝		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	18⅛-18	7 months	17-16¾
2 months	17¾-17½	8 months	17-16¾
3 months	17¾-17¼	9 months	17-16¾
4 months	17¼-17	10 months	17-16¾
5 months	17¼-17	11 months	17-16¾
6 months	17-16¾	12 months	16½-16

Secondary Mkt ECD Rates (%)

1 month	16⅝-16⅞	6 months	16⅝-16½
3 months	16⅞-16⅝	12 months	15⅞-15¾

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	16½	3 months	17
7 days	17	6 months	16¾
1 month	16⅞	1 year	15¾

Interbank Market (%)
Overnight: Open 16-15¾ Close 16-15½

1 week	16½-18	6 months	16⅞-16⅝
1 month	16⅞-16⅞	9 months	16¼-16
3 months	17-16⅞	12 months	15⅞-15⅝

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 17½ 6 months 17¼

Finance House Base Rate 14½%

Foreign exchange report

The dollar came under pressure yesterday with sterling also losing ground on moderately active foreign exchange markets. The pound finished the session up 25 points at 2.1625 compared with 2.1600 overnight, while its trade weighted index after 69.0 at the opening closed at 69.1 against 69.2 on Friday.

Events in Iran continued to affect sentiment in the dollar while the threat of cut-backs in oil by some Gulf states was also a contributory factor. At the close the United States currency had fallen quite sharply against the D-mark at 1.7490 (1.7615), the Dutch guilder strengthened to 1.9565 (1.9665), along with the French franc at 4.1090 (4.1325). The yen was lower at 250.80 (249.35). The dollar was also ahead against the Swiss franc but well below its best at 1.65075 (1.6510).

Sterling Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) November 26	Market rates (close) November 26		1 month	3 months
New York	$2.1480-1630	$2.1615-1625	New York	.55-.45c prem	1.37-1.27c prem
Montreal	$2.5180-5355	$2.5330-5340	Montreal	.58-.48c prem	1.77-1.67c prem
Amsterdam	4.21½-24½fl	4.22¾-23½fl	Amsterdam	1½-1c prem	4¼-3¾c prem
Brussels	61.30-80f	61.60-70f	Brussels	12-2c prem	35-25c prem
Copenhagen	11.16-21½k	11.18¾-19¾k	Copenhagen	2¼-4¼ore disc	2½-4¼ore disc
Frankfurt	3.76½-80½m	3.78-79m	Frankfurt	2½-1½pf prem	7¼-6¼pf prem
Lisbon	107.40-108.80e	108.30-50e	Lisbon	par-80c disc	par-100c disc
Madrid	142.35-143.65p	143.20-30p	Madrid	100-150c disc	80-180c disc
Milan	1764-78lr	1777-78lr	Milan	3-1lr prem	1¾ lr prem-4lr dis
Oslo	10.77-81k	10.79¼-80¼k	Oslo	3¾-1¾ore prem	11-9ore prem
Paris	8.86-92f	8.88½-89½f	Paris	3¾-2¾c prem	6¾-5¾c prem
Stockholm	9.04-09½k	9.07½-08½k	Stockholm	3¾-1¾ore prem	11-9ore prem
Tokyo	538-44y	542-43y	Tokyo		
Vienna	27.15-33sch	27.20-28sch	Vienna	22-12gro prem	60-50gro prem
Zurich	3.55-59f	3.56¾-57¾f	Zurich	3¾-2¾c prem	10¾-9¾c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971 was down 0.1 at 69.1.

Sterling: other markets

Ireland	1.0030-1.0050
Australia	1.9755-1.9805
Bahrain	0.80-0.83
Finland	8.1315-8.1366
Greece	80.05-80.85
Hongkong	10.8085-10.8135
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	0.5870-0.6170
Malaysia	4.7025-4.7325
Mexico	49.45-49.93
New Zealand	2.2140-2.2340
Saudi Arabia	7.2570-7.2870
Singapore	4.6915-4.7335
South Africa	1.7870-1.7920

Dollar spot rates

Canada†	117.12-117.15
Ireland*	2.1040-2.1090
Netherlands	1.9560-1.9570
Belgium	28.51-28.55
Denmark	5.1765-5.1780
West Germany	1.7485-1.7496
Portugal	50.10-50.20
Spain	66.26-66.29
Italy	822.00-822.50
Norway	499.38-499.50
France	410.80-411.00
Sweden	4.2000-4.2015
Japan	250.75-250.85
Austria	12.58½-12.59½
Switzerland	1.6600-1.6616

† Canada $1=US$ 0.8539-0.8541.
* Ireland quoted in US currency.

EMS: Euro currency unit rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate †	% change adjusted † *	divergence limit
Belgian franc	39.8456	40.2775	+1.1	+1.1	±1.53
Danish krone	7.36594	7.32314	−0.58	−0.58	±1.635
German D-mark	2.48557	2.47476	−0.34	−0.39	±1.125
French franc	5.85522	5.81407	−0.70	−0.70	±1.3575
Dutch guilder	2.74748	2.76538	+0.66	+0.66	±1.615
Irish punt	0.669141	0.671270	+0.32	+0.32	±1.665
Italian lira	1159.32	1160.84	+0.12	+0.12	±4.08

† Changes are for the ECU. Therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* Adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits. Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $393.00 (an ounce); pm, $395.25; close, $394¾.
Krugerrand (per coin): $405½-408 (£188¼-189).
Sovereigns (new): $101-103 (£46¾-47¾).

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 11¾-11⅝; seven days, 13½-14¼; one month, 13⅝-13⅞; three months, 13⅞-14; six months, 13⅞-13⅝.

1978-79 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
39	Airsprung Group	77	—	6.7	8.7	*4.6
35	Armitage Rhodes	42	—	3.8	9.0	*2.7
143	Bardon Hill	220	—	13.8	6.3	*6.5
50	Deborah Ord	93	—	5.0	5.4	10.2
93	Deborah New Ord Fully Paid Rights	93	—	—	—	—
140	Deborah 17½% CULS	353	—	17.5	5.0	—
100	Frederick Parker	105	—	12.8	12.2	*8.1
110	George Blair	110	—	16.5	15.0	*—
45	Jackson Group	61	—	5.2	8.5	*3.6
97	James Burrough	112	—	7.2	6.4	9.8
250	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	*4.9
150	Torday Limited	226xd	—	14.3	6.3	*5.9
14	Twinlock Ord	20	—	0.8	4.2	*3.8
69	Twinlock 12% ULS	75	—	12.0	16.0	—
23	Unilock Holdings	53	—	2.6	4.9	11.3
42	Walter Alexander	80	—	4.4	5.5	5.3
136	W. S. Yeates	183	—	11.5	6.3	7.1
185	W. S. Yeates, New	186	—	—	—	—

…ccounts prepared under provision of SSAP15

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Shares listless

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 19. Dealings End, Dec 7. § Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1978/79 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. Gross only Yield	Red. Yield
101⁹⁄₁₆	95¾	Treas Cnv 9½%	1980	97⅞	..	9.195	17.127
102⅞	93¾	Treas	9½% 1980	97½	..	9.781	16.181
97	92½	Treas	3½% 1977-80	96⅞	• ..	3.650	11.512
97½	92⅝	Fund	5¼% 1978-80	95⅞	• ..	5.477	13.349
110¼	97¾	Exch	13% 1980	97⅞	−⅛	13.281	15.338
104¾	94¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas	11½% 1981	95¾	−⅛	11.995	15.320
93⅞	88¾	Treas	3½% 1979-81	91⅝	..	3.830	11.261
101⅞	91¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas	9½% 1981	93¹¹⁄₁₆	−⅛	10.407	15.073
97⅞	89¾	Exch	8¼% 1981	91¹³⁄₁₆	•−⅛	8.987	14.463
100⁵⁄₁₆	91	Exch	9¾% 1981	93⁵⁄₁₆	−⅛	10.277	14.982
91¼	84¼	Exch	3% 1981	87⅛	..	3.438	11.301
111	93½	Exch	12¾% 1981	95⅝	−⅛	13.335	15.363
98⅝	87½	Treas	8½% 1980-82	87⅝	−⅛	9.701	15.496
93¼	82	Treas	3% 1982	84	..	3.571	11.396
115⅝	97½	Treas	14% 1982	97⅞	−⅛	14.349	15.277
98⅝	88¾	Treas	8¼% 1982	85⁹⁄₁₆	−⅛	9.656	15.210
100⅝	87⅝	Exch	9¼% 1982	86⁹⁄₁₆	−⅛	10.704	15.327
96⅞	84½	Exch	8¾% 1983	85⅞	−⅛	10.238	14.736
86¾	76⅝	Exch	3% 1983	77½	..	3.872	11.824
114¼	90⅝	Treas	12% 1983	91	−⅛	13.187	15.572
100⅝	83¹⁵⁄₁₆	Treas	9½% 1983	83¹⁵⁄₁₆	−⅛	11.091	15.396
98⅞	84⅝	Exch	10% 1983	84⅞	•−⅛	11.845	15.316
90⅝	76	Fund	5½% 1982-84	77¼	−⅛	7.120	12.739
97¹⁵⁄₃₂	86⅝	Exch	11¼% 1984	86⅝	−⅛	12.968	15.644
77⅞	69	Exch	3% 1984	69½	• ..	4.317	11.851
101¼	87½	Treas	12% 1984	88¾	−⅛	13.821	15.529
110	87½	Exch	12½% 1985	87¾	−⅛	13.993	15.500
94⅞	80	Treas	8½% 1984-86	81⅞	−⅛	10.609	13.481
112⅝	95	Exch	13½% 1987	95	−1	14.670	15.518

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

FOREIGN STOCKS

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

1978/79 High	Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
10⅝	7½	Algoma Cen Rly	£7⅝		−⅛	28.0	3.4	[illegible]
51	42	Calcutta Elec	44		..	14.0	31.8	..
32½	41	E Surr Wtr 4.9%	£41	•	..	490	12.0	
38¾	29	Essex Wtr 3.5%	30		..	500	16.7	
14	10	Gt Nthn Tele	£10		..	142	14.2	
690	510	Imp Cont Gas	610		−3	25.7	4.2	[illegible]
38	29	Mid Kent Wtr	£30		..	500	16.7	
213	66	Milford Docks	176		+3	8.0b	4.5	[illegible]
111¼	82½	Nesco Inv	90	s	..	9.0	10.0	..
38½	29	Sunderland Wtr	£30		..	350	11.7	

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

ympic Games

.illanin achieves his ambition as OC vote in China's favour

a John Hennessy

anne, Nov 26

e members of the International Olympic Committee have I by an *overwhelming* rity to bring China back into movement. It is an historic ion, since Communist China neve yet taken part. The : of a postal ballot among members, revealed here toshowed 62 in favour of a it devized by the executive ., and 17 against, with one ntion and one blank paper. of the 89 members failed ly.

: format established a Chinese pic Committee, based on the and, and a Chinese Taipeh pic Committee based on n. Since 1958 there has been one, with its headquarters *ipeh, bearing in later years* dicrous title of The Republic ina Olympic Committee. Has such a minute tail persisted gging such a formidable dog?

decision was given today ie picturesque Chateau de by the sparkling waters of Geneva by Mohamed Mzali, nisia, the IOC's senior vice 'ent. On the wall behind him g benevolently in oils, *was* Killanin the IOC president, thus achieves a cherished ion. This was the main goal *ught when he took office in* he will see it come to n before his tenure runs out scow next summer.

Mzali said the ruling took immediately " and there can appeal ". He seemed to pay heed to the legal action ened by Taiwan in the last ays, in the belief that the twyers knew their business. simple majority would have Killanin's purpose, but he iraw further comforts from the fact that the vote clearly surpasses the two thirds majority required by a change of rule, if that should become the nub of legal argument.

The irony *of Taiwan's hostility* is that the IOC have instituted these changes not merely to open the way for Peking but also to *remove* the roadblocks for Taipeh. Taiwan's insistence on calling itself the Republic of China led to their expulsion from the Montreal Games in *1976*.

A letter from the United States State Department reproduced in these columns today showed that the same problem would arise during the winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York State in February now that Peking has diplomatic recognition in the United States. The IOC have received for *their* pains the threat of legal action.

Taiwan will have to provide a new flag, a new anthem and a revized Olympic emblem, all of which at *the moment are based on* old Nationalist China standards. For some these will be bitter pills to swallow but there is evidence *of a split developing in* Taiwan between the old guard and the new. Some members of the younger generation, born perhaps *since* the flight from the mainland, accept the change as inevitable and many athletes, we hear, would be perfectly happy to sail under Taiwanese colours, rather thna Chinese. But of course big political issues are at stake and theirs is a small voice.

The documents released here today show that Killanin employed a telling precedent. He *reminded members that his* predecessor, Avery Brundage, wrote to Peking in 1958 that " everyone knows that there is a separate *government in* Taiwan which is recognized internationally and specifically by the United Nations consisting of the governments of the world. Your government is not recognised by the United Nations ".

At the moment China belongs *to two of the winter games sports* federations, those of ice hockey and skating, and are expected to send competitors to Lake Placid *for those* events. They belong to 13 of the 26 summer sports, but are expected to be welcomed by the other federations well before the Moscow Games in July and to to be represented there on a large scale.

In view of their isolation for so lon gtheirs will be virtually a voyage o fdiscovery, but Mrs Monique Berlioux, director of the IOC, had no doubt that " they will be a powerful influence in world sport in the years to come." Even now they are expected to do well in gymnastics, diving, *women's* volleyball, weightlifting and shooting. The other sports they already belong to are athletics, rowing, *basketball, canoeing, cycling*, fencing, wrestling and weightlifting.

Their expected excellence in diving presupposes their readmission to the International Amateur Swimming Federation. China, Nationalist China thta is, competed in two Olympic Games, those of 1936 in Berlin and 1948 (London). Communist China accepted the invitation to Helsinki (1952) but never arrived. They withdrew from Melbourne (1956) and from the movement altogether in 1958. *They remained impervious to* appeals to rejoin whilerecognition of Taiwan remained. In 1975, however, they asked to be readmitted *an dtheir acceptance of a second* body in Taiwan represents a considerable concession from the implaccable days when they claimed thta Taiwan was part of China and therefore subject to their jurisdiction.

Cricket

A Caribbean ring to laughter in the bay

From John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

Sydney, Nov 26

The England *innings in the* first big match of their tour, against West Indies here on Wednesday in the one-day international cup, will be opened by Brearley and Randall. As expected, Boycott, being unsuited to this instant form of cricket, has been left out. West Indies will be relying on the side that won them the World Cup at Lord's in June.

Bairstow *is preferred* to Taylor and, although Willis is in the England 12, Dilley is more likely to play with Hendrick also out, *because of injury*. The *side* has an unfamiliar though not uninteresting look about it. Willey, aged 29, Bairstow, 28, and Dilley, *20, are younger than Boycott*, 39, Taylor, 38, and Willis, 30, which is a ste pin the right direction. It has also been announced that the " circle rule " *will apply in* none of the matches. Unlike England, Australia and West Indies were prepared to play it when meeting each other but, in the interests of uniformity, this will not happen.

A freak storm here this morning, as day was breaking, closed the airport for half an hour and left some of Sydne's suburbs under three feet of hail. Its effects also prevented the three teams from having a last practice. At the Randwick Racecourse, Benson and *Hedges, sponsors of the* winter's cricket, launched affairs with a fine and congenial lunch. It was a simple matter picking out the " old " Australian players now back in the " new " Australian team. Although the official invitation stipulated " lounge suits ", Marsh, Lillee and Pascoe were dressed in aggressively " informal " style.

At *the England table* Tony Greig, looking every inch (or centimetre, as they say here) the business executive sat next to Boycott and opposite Brearley, not that from what he has said or written he thinks much of the England side. Outwardly, Greig gives the impression that the past two and a half years never happened, though he is fuller in *the face and thinner on top than* he was. He has also become the owner of a luxurious Sydney home on the " right side of the bridge ".

Harold Larwood was at the lunch and full of beans. Willis towering over him, said: " You get younger an dthe rest of us get oder, that's tehe trouble ". Larwod, the father of four girls, has *in Australia. Not in 100 guesses* 13 grandchildren, all of them living could anyone who did not know he was a great fast bowler pick him out as having been one. " Nowt but free-for-all " is how Larwood, nw 75, describes the present setup.

The influence exerted by Channel Nine, which is Kerry Packer's television company, on where and *when the game is played in Australia* is illustrated by what happened at the *Sydney Cricket* Ground last week. Until Friday, the authorities there were expecting to stage the final of the *McDonald Cup, between New* were then told that they would be South Wales and Victoria. They having instead, the play-off for third place between Western Australia and Tasmania, the final having been switched to Melbourne. Rather than having a crowd of 25,000, which they might have expected for the final, they had one of 850.

*Australia meet West Indies to*morrow, and West Indies play England on Wednesday. The hours of play are from 2.10 until 10 pm, which will take some getting used to. By tehe time the players return to their hotel it will be close to midnight and the adrenalin will still be running. By way of preparation, England were having a team dinner tonight, at which to *lay their plans. These dinners are* valuable ac occasions when everyone is expected to contribute and usually does.

Of the three sides West Indies look the strongest with nothing much to choose between England and Australia—and West Indies have never yet done well in Australia. When they were here last for a Test series, in 1975/76, they won one Test and lost five. *Most* of their present side were playing then. What they will be, for sure, is marvellously good on their day, yet incurably mercurial.

If Fred Trueman is to be believed, both Thomson and Lillee are " *over the top* ". *Trueman* has been here for some weeks, doing television work for channel nine. After failing to take a wicket *in a recent* match, Lillee went to the television point to watch him*self on film, hoping for enlight*enment. In Trueman's opinion, Pascoe and Hogg are now Australia's best fast bowlers. So far I have seen Lillee only on television, when, in spite of looking his age, he bowled some fine opening overs.

For England, their *first* match under lights will be an ordeal. Only Underwood of Brearley's side has any experience of competitive night cricket. So little is expected of England in these games, because the Australians and West Indians are the owls of the party, that this could conceivably ease the pressure on *them. As I write, though, the* laughter that echoes round the bay has a Caribbean ring to it—West Indies are the favourites to win everything this winter, so long as they keep their nerve.

West Indian recovery: Clive Lloyd declared himself fit to lead West Indies against Australia tomorrow. He aggravated a knee injury in the last tour match against a Tasmanian invitation XI in Devenport but treatment with an ice pack has enabled him *to play*.

The West Indian selectors named 12 players and will announce the 12th man shortly before the start of the match. The party includes four fast bowlers in Andy Roberts, Michael *Holding, Joel Garner and Colin* Croft.

Boycott : unsuited to the instant form of cricket.

Football

Croydon may be asked to move by the police

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

Croydon, an Isthmian League club with an unremarkable record *in the FA Cup*, will have mixed feelings if their attractive second round tie against Millwall on December 15 is moved to Crystal Palace's *much larger* ground nearby. The switch, which the police may insist upon, could double the attendance to about 20,000 but would cost Croydon all of the advantages that playing at home can bring to small clubs.

Crystal Palace's ground, Selhurst Park, is expected to be free on the day of the second round but Croydon's manager, Ted Shepherd, is not enthusiastic about the opportunity for his club to make money at the expense of home advantage. He said after yesterday's draw: " The police will also determine our arrangements. The ground holds around 10,000 but a lot of the standing is on grass banking ".

Millwall would probably be happier playing at Selhurst Park, thus escaping two appearances at *non-league grounds. The third* division leaders were drawn away to Salisbury in the first round but the match was moved to South*ampton where they won 2-1.*

Two non-league clubs are certain to reach the third round. Yeovil Town, fortified by their fine history in the Cup, will be at home to Slough, of the Isthmian League, and Chesham, also of the Isthmian League, face Merthyr Tydfil. But two non-league sides who have already beaten League opponents in the first round, Barking and Altrincham, must play away.

Barking go to Reading where, according to one of their officials who best be nameless, they have about " as much chance as a snowball in an oven ". Altrin*cham, after beating Crewe 3-0,* will have a better opimon of themselves when they face the winners of a replay between Rotherham and Morecambe.

Harlow, in their centenary season, have never before reached the second round and are rewarded with a tie at Southend United, who thus face non-league oponents for the second time. *Southend disposed of Wealdstone* on Saturday and know something of Harlow because they played against them in the Essex Senior *Cup last season.*

Harlow obviously intend enjoyingthis special year. Their manager, Ian Wolstenholme, said: " Let's be honest, this is a fun competition for us. We are in it for what money we can get out of it. If we had to travel, then I don't think this draw could have been better."

Blackburn Rovers v Stafford Rangers.
Bury v York City.
Carlisle or Hull v Sheffield Wednesday.
Chesham United v Merthyr Tydfil.
Colchester or Plymouth v Bournemouth.
Croydon v Millwall.
Darlington or Huddersfield v Bradford.
Doncaster v Mansfield.
Gillingham or Wimbledon v Portsmouth.
Grimsby or Chesterfield v Sheffield United.
Hereford v Aldershot.
Morecambe or Rotherham v Altrincham.
Nuneaton Borough or Northwich Victoria v Blackpool or Wigan.
Reading v Barking.
Southend United v Harlow Town.
Torquay v Swindon Town.
Tranmere Rovers v Rochdale.
Walsall v Halifax.
Yeovil v Slough.
Matches to be played on December 15.

FA punished Revie twice counsel says

By Norman Fox

Should Don Revie, the former England manager, be allowed to work in the Football League after his present High Court action (see *page 3), it will almost certainly be* for eight years as a consultant with Leeds United.

Mention of an ogreement betwern Mr Revie and the Leeds club he managed before accepting the post with England was made early *in yesterday's* proceedings. It was said by Mr Revie's counsel, Mr Gilbert Gray QC, that the contract would run from January 1, 1980 to *December 31, 1988 and be worth* £10,000 a year.

Mr Revie, who resigned from the position of England manoger in July, 1977, signed a four-year contract as director of football with the United Arab Emirates but he still has close links with Leeds. He was a player and manager at Elland Road for 12 years and has often said that the Leeds result is the first he *looks for when in* Dubai.

Counsel for Mr Revie submitted thar the Football Association knew that there was an agreement with Leeds before they imposed a 10-year suspension for bringing the *game into disrepute.*

Worthington to join Birmingham

Frank Worthington is set to sign for Birmingham City today for £150,000 as soon as a medical report shows a clean bill of health. Worthington, of Bolton Wanderers *and a former England No 9, played* at St Andrews in a testimonial game for David Latchford, a former Birmingham goalkeeper, last night.

Millwall have turned down an offer of £150,000 from Blackpool for Towner, who joined the club last season from Brighton for £65,000. Bobby Robson, Ipswich Town's manager, inquired about *Kevin O'Callaghan* after watching him play in a youth match last week but Millwall have yet to receive a firm offer for the player.

Terry Yorath, of Tottenham Hotspur and Wales, will appear before an FA disciplinary commission in London on Thursday. Yorath faces a three-match suspension after totalling 20 disciplinary points. Dennis Smith, Stoke City's *captain, who missed Saturday's win* over Bolton Wanderers after being sent off at Villa Park on November 17, will appear at Birmingham tomorrow

David HTatton, a former Blackpool captain, has returned to the club as first team coach. Hatton, aged 36 and recently dismissed as manager of Bury, has been given a contract until the end of the *season.*

Doug Ellis, a former Aston Villa chairman who failed in his attempt to remove the current chairman and two *other directors, yesterday* refused to give up his place on the board. Mr Ellis was asked to resign after the voting at a recent extraordinary meeting went against him.

Earlier, this month, Ellis called a meeting in the hope of unseating Harry Kartz, the chairman, and two directors, Ronald and Donald Bendall, but shareholders *voted against him. He had the* support of another director, Eric Houghton, and afterwards Mr Kartz asked them both to resign.

In a short statement Mr Ellis said: " I will not resign because the overwhelming majority of the 1,800 members at the meeting voted for Mr Houghton and myself

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA CUP: First Round Replays: Chesterfield v Grimsby Town: Huddersfield Town v Darlington: Plymouth Argyle v Colchester United: Rotherham United v Morecambe (7.15): Wimbledon v Gillingham.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: League Cup Third round replay: Hounslow v Cambridge. *Midland Division*: Gloucester v Kidderminster: Trowbridge v Bridgend. Southern division: Ashford v Dover: Canterbury v Addlestone: Poole v Bognor Regis.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Marine v Buxton: South Liverpool v Burton Alb.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barking v Harrow Boro: Dulwich Hamlet v Hendon: Harlow v Carshalton: Staines v Slough: Sutton v Hitchin: Tooting and Mitcham v Croydon: Woking v Enfield: Wycombe Wanderers v Tilbury. First Division: Aveley v Ware: Chesham v Wokingham: Epsom v Kingstonian: Harwich and Parkeston v St Albans: Horsham v Walton and Hersham: Maidenhead v Farnborough: Metropolitan Police v Bromley: Wembley v Clapton.

RUGBY LEAGUE: BBC Floodlit Competition: Third Round: Hull v Leeds. First Division: Bradford Northern v St Helens.

f

ne colourful Continentals turn to Sunningdale

ter Ryde

golf match between the Isles and the Continent rope will return to England ear at Sunningdale from Sepr 12 to 14.

tournament, sponsored since rt in 1976 by Hennessy Cogbrings together teams of 11 *sionals in a match* that has been neither close nor dull. eason for this is that wherehome players tend to take easily the Continentals often above themselves, which for e makes it look closer than lly is. The pattern of play r foursomes and four fouron the morning of the first ays with six singles in the *oon, and two series of six* s on the third day.

1978, when the home counwon by 17½-14½, the event rowned by a gloriously imt drive by Severiano Ballesoff the tenth tee which fin-12 feet from the hole when is supposed to play short. annot help speculating on Ballesteros may attempt off e at *Sunningdale* at such as the third, ninth, and th, all short par fours.

assumes that he will be in am; if he values his repuhe surely will be, for it be too much stressed that ritish public like to take a natchplay with their diet of play. He represents a beacon tinental golf and it would *mistake for him or his* manager to ignore the public importance of an event like this.

If the Continental team is at full strength the home team will *also need to be. Sandy Lyle hates* matchplay, but his golfing talent has developed so quickly that he should be able to take this in his stride as he appears to be doing everything else. Britain, under the captaincy of Brian Huggett, will *also need the services of such* players as Mark James and Ken Brown.

Tomorrow the Professional Golfers Association will make known what action if any they propose to take over the behaviour of these two in the Ryder Cup match in September. Ken Schofield, secretary of the European Tournament Players Division, *said yesterday that among the* penalties that could be imposed was withholding the £1,000 fee paid to other members of the Ryder Cup team or their suspension from international matches.

Not having been present at the Ryder *Cup* matches where the misdemeanours are said to have taken place, I cannot comment on that. In Athens during the World *Cup match* James and Brown seemed to me to behave impeccably. Generally speaking I side more with the doves than with the hawks. If, without encouraging further indiscipline, some way can be found of preserving these players' good will, then I will applaud. Perhaps that is not possible, but their individuality and talent, if controlled, are what the *game needs*.

Motor racing

The slim-line look for new Ferrari

By John Blunsden

A new formula one Ferrari, the 312T5, with which Jody Scheckter will defend his world champion ship next year, was unveiled yesterday at the Italian team's headquarters at Fiorano by 81-year-old Enzo Ferrari. Immediately afterwards it was loaded abroad the team's transporter and sent to the Paul Ricard circuit in the south of France, where Scheckter and his partner, *Gilles Villeneuve*, are due to drive it today.

A logical development of the 312T4 *with which the two Ferrari* drivers each won three grands prix this year to finish first and second in the championship, the 312T5 has completely new hightailed body work and a slimmer profile. This is the result of extensive tests in the wind tunnel of the Italian coach building specialists Pininfarina. But an equally important change is hidden from *view. The cylinder* heads of the 515 bhp 12-cylinder engine have been redesigned into a more compact shape to allow a more efficient flow of air beneath the car on each side of the engine—a fundamental requirement of the latest breed of ground effect cars. There has also been a general rearrangement of other chassis components for the same reason.

The new car will have *its first* race onJanuar y 13 in the Argentine Grand Prix, and initially four examples are to be built with a fifth to follow later in 1980.

Nevertheless, Ferrari have not abondoned their plan to build a completely new car, powered by a one and a half litre V-6 turbocharged engine, for use in selected races next year. However, as it is unlikely to be *completed before* mid-season it will miss the two high-altitude races in South Africa and Mexico City, where the benefits of a turbo-charged engine would be at their maximum.

The Ferrari team believe firmly that the turbo-charged engine should be allowed a continuing future in grand prix racing alongside the *normally* aspirated three-*litre engines, if encessary with* some adjustment to help equate power outputs. They say that the further technical development of this type of power unit *should* be encouraged through the sport.

They also believe that any agreed change in formula should operate for a period of at least five years in order to sustain the involvement of the smaller teams *and of firms like Cosworth*, Engineering, who have fulfilled their engine requirements for the past 12 years.

It seems *likely that Ferrari will* use the end of 1980 as a test period for their turbo-charged car rior to a more serious challenge with it in 1981. In one sense time is on their side because they pare not expected to announce any turbo-charged passenger car much before the mid-80s, which is when they would want to make use of the publicity rub-off of any grand *prix successes.*

Bangalore result vindicates Gavaskar's prediction

Bangalore, Nov 26.—The rain-hit first Test between India and Pakistan *ended in a draw here* today. At the end of the fifth and final day's play Pakistan, who led by 15 runs on the first innings, were 108 for two. *India* were all out for 416 in their first innings.

More than four and a half hours of play were lost yesterday due to rain and there was never any chance of either side forcing a win today. Sunil Gavaskar, under whose captaincy India have never lost, said the six Tests against Pakistan would be a high-scoring series with both teams finding it *difficult to force a result.*

India, resuming at 286 for four this morning, seemed certain to gain a first-innings lead when they reached 410 for six. But their last four wickets went down for six runs. Imran Khan distinguished himself by claiming four for 53 on a wicket which gave no help to fast bowlers.

Majid Khan, who has not been a *front-line bowler for many years*, picked up three for 55 with his off-breaks. Syed Kirmani and Kapil Dev, who made 37 and 38, *respectively, brought India within* sight of Pakistan's first-innings score with a seventh wicket stand of 63.

Kirmani completed a good day when he stumped Majid in Pakistan's second innings to equal Farokh Engineer's record of 82 dismissals for an Indian wicketkeeper in Tests. Pakistan will play a three-day match against North Zone at Amritsar starting on the Thursday before the second Test in Delhi next month.

PAKISTAN: First Innings, 431 for 9 declared (Mudassar Nazar 126, Javed Miandad 76: Dilip Doshi 5 for 102.

Second Innings

Majid Khan, st Kirmani	19
Mudassar Nazar, c Kapil dev, b Yadav	17
Zaheer Abbas, not out	31
Javed Miandad, not out	30
Extras (b—4, n.b.—7) ..	11
Total (2 wkts)	108

Wasim Raja, *Asif Iqbal, Imran Khan, Wasim Bari, Abdul Qadir, Iqbal Qasim, Ehteshamuddin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS, 1—41, 2—41.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev, 4—2—6—0: *Ghavri*, 8—3—30—0: Binny, 3—2—1—0: Doshi, 12—5—26—1: Yadav, 11—2—30—1: Viswanath, 3—1—6—0: Gavaskar, 1—0—8—0.

INDIA: First Innings

*S. M. Gavaskar, c Miandad, b Abdul Qadir	88
C. P. S. Chauhan, c Majid, b Imran	13
D. B. Vengsarkar, b Imran ..	33
G. R. Viswanath, c Wasim Bari, b Ehteshamuddin	73
Yashpal Sharma, c Miandad, b Majid	62
R. Binny, c Ehteshamuddin, b Imran	46
S. M. H. Kirmani, c Iqbal Qasim, b Ehteshamuddin	37
Kapil Dev, Majid Khan	38
K. D. *Ghavri*, b *Majid Khan* ..	2
S. Yadav, not out	1
D. Doshi, b Imram	0
Extras (b 15, lb 10)	25
Total	415

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—17—2—122, 3—161, 4—286, 5—307, 6—347, 7—410, 8—414, 9—415, 10—415.

BOWLING: Imran Khan, 28 4—13—53—4: *Ehteshamuddin*, 18—2—52—2, Iqbal Qasim, 31—17—75—0: Majid Khan, 28—9—55—3: Abdul Qadir, 35—8—114—1: Wasim Raja, 8—2—30—0: Mudassar Nazar, 6—1—14—0 —Reuter.

England earn bonus for high over rate

England's cricketers, who received £1,200 for each match of last year's series against India, sponsored by Cornhill Insurance, have earned a bonus.

For averaging 16.87 overs per hour in the four tests, they have been rewarded with an extra payment of £50 per test, which means players like Brearley, Botham and *Gower, who played* in every test, will have collected £5,000 for their summer's work in England's cause.

Although India included two spin bowlers—Venkatraghavan and Bedi—they could manage only 15.70 per hour in the series, which they lost 1-0.

The boot is on the other foot for for Surrey, who are desperately trying to raise money to preserve county and Test cricket at the Oval. They are faced with a £1,600 bill for bowling their overs slowly *last summer. They fell behind the* target of 19 an hour in each half of the season, ending up with an average rate of 18.38.

Even Essex, winners of the championship for the first time, must hand over £600 to the Test and County Cricket Board for failing to attain the required minimum in the first half of 1979, as did Middlesex, their figures were 18.65 and 18.91 respectively. The fines are paid jointly by the counties and players.

Only one county, eLicestershire, *maintained a rate of over 20 an* hour throughout the season. Their figures were 25.42 for the first half and 20.85 for the second, *giving* them an *overall* 20.64. Somerset scored their runs quicker than anyone—55.14 per 100 balls received. At the bottom of the scale came Hampshire, with 43.10.

Athletics festival

A new professional athletics meeting, the Christmas Athletics Festival, is to be held at Grangemouth Stadium, Scotland, on December 26 and 27 and the main feature is the Nixon's Hotwash 110 metres handicap.

Stevenson's surprise

Graham Stevenson, the Yorkshire fast bowler, left London for *Australia yesterday to join the* England cricket team and said that his call up was the " surprise of my life ".

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Cleveland Cavaliers 112, New Jersey Nets 103: Milwaukee Bucks 114, Golden State Warriors 90, Phoenix Suns 87, Portland Trail Blazers 86: Los Angeles Lakers 111, Kansas City Kings 110.

kating

ousins to follow path of urry at Richmond

hn Hennessy

British figure skating champips, to be held today and ow at Richmond under the rship of Noir After Shave, special interest on three *But the focus of attention*, clearly, will be the men's featuring Robin Cousins.

ay be recalled that four ago *this* was *the first of* hampionships won by John among them the Olympic Ve now wait to see if Coun follow the same victorious That he will win is hardly ubt, barring accidents, beunlike Curry, he has no ger. It seems to have been en in the orgy of acclaim ollowed Curry's bigger suc*that he only just* beat s for the British title.

it is not the result that s but the manner of its ement. *If Cousins* is to reach e potential this season he ed to show improvement in mpulsory figures and perigher technical achievement, inct from purity of style, in e skating. At a time when *jumps seem to be ten a* we shall hope to see Coud a fourth different triple, s the lutz, if not a fifth to pertoire. He might, on the hand, decide that there is ed for heroics and choose ve us in the dark.

women's event seems like a t fight between Deborah l, the holder, and Karena Richardson, from whom Miss Cottrill wrested the championship *last year. Miss Richardson* has followed Curry and Cousins to Denver to train under the eminent Carlo Fassi and has already re*vealed substantial improvement.* She clearly outpointed Miss Cott*rill*, at 17 three years the junior, during the Rotary competition on *the same ice rink last* month and must be regarded as the favourite.

The prize for the winner *is* not merely a title, but also a place in the team for the European Olympic and world championships after the New Year. Miss Cottrill has also been training in *Colorado* but it does not seem *to* have brought the improvement she sought.

There are only two young entries for the pairs, but at least Robert Daw, aged 15, and Susan Garland, 13, offer the hope of a genuine British revival in a class that has been in the doldrums for two decades. They will want not only to win but to confirm that they are ready for the big time, though the selectors may decide that the European *championship is a big enough* test for the moment fo rskaters so young.

Beyond all that, there will be an exhibition by Britain's brilliant ice dance champions, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. That alone should more than repay the entrance money on Wednesday evening.

oker

riffiths subdues Higgins

y Griffiths, the world er champion, made the most s chances in the British ionship at Preston yesterday. ished three frames clear of Higgins at the end of the ession of their fourth round Higgins opened in sparkorm with a break of 57 to he frame 90-25.

ough Griffiths took the *with a table clearance* of liggins came back with a of 70 to go 2-1 up. But vas his last important break he last occasion he held an tage. Griffiths took the next rames to lead 5-2.

Edmonds, a former English ur champion, finished his session with a 4-3 lead over Bill Werbenuik of Canada. Werbenuik needed the last two colours in the seventh frame to move ahead but he missed the pink.

Werbenuik, the first overseas player to compete in the tournament, had earlier repeated his victory over John Spencer in this year's world championship with a dramatic finish. Trailing 6-8, he *captured the next two* frames and ended by amassing a break of 69 to beat Spencer, three times the world champion.

THIRD ROUND: D. Taylor beat W. Thorne, 9-8: W. Werbenuik (Canada) beat J. Spencer, 9-8.

FOUTH ROUND: T. Griffiths leads A. Higgins, 5-2: *R. Edmonds leads W. Werbenuik*, 4-3.

ards

lifsud is irrepressible

ombo, Nov 26.—Paul Mifsud, alta, gained a lead of 823 Norman Dagley, of England, e world amateur billiards pionship final here today, d led by 1,648 points to 825 at. There are two sessions rrow.

sud never lost his grip on the game and brought off some *splendid* shots. He had one century break in the morning session, two in the evening session and a magnificent unfinished break of 359. Dagley, twice winner of the title, could not match Mifsud, but he had two century breaks in the *evening session.*—Reuter.

Tennis

Victory for Miss Shriver ends disappointing run

Melbourne, Nov 26.—Wendy Turnbull, seeded four, of Australia, and Susan Barker, seeded *six*, of Britain, both won here today, but there was a more significant victory for the young Omerican, Pamela Shriver, as a women's tournament opened here today.

Miss Shriver, beaten finalist in the United States open as a 16-year-old last year, has had a lean time in recent months, not *having won a match in her last* five tournaments. But the tall, Baltimore schoolgirl came through today by beating another American, Janet Newberry, 6—4, 6—0, in the opening round.

Mrs Turnbull celebrated her twenty-seventh birthday by *easily* defeating Regina Marsikova, of Czechoslovakia, 6—2 6—0. Miss Barker, a favourite here, struggled before eliminating Dianne Desor, 6—3, 7—6.

RESULTS: Miss H Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) beat Miss R. McCallum (US), 4—6, 6—3, 6—2: Miss M. Wikstdt (Sweden) beat Miss D. Evers, 6—0, 6—2: Miss P. Shriver (US) beat Miss J. Newberry (US), 6—4, 6—0: Mrs W. Turnbull beat Miss R. Marsikova (Czechoslovakia), 6—2, 6—0: Miss S. Barker (GB) beat Miss D. Desfor (US), 6—3, 7—6: Miss D. Morrison (US), beat Mrs C. O'Neil, 3—6, 6—2, 6—4.

Milan, Nov 26.—Peter Fleming won a battle of powerful services and volleys to beat Roscoe Tanner, 6—4, 6—3 in the opening match of a tournament here today Fleming broke Tanner twice in the first set and once in the second to win the match in one hour and 13 minutes.

Tanner, a Wimbledon finalist this year, was erratic close to the net. Fleming played a series of good passing shots and served more accurately. The eight-player tournament, continuing *until Thursday, is split into two* Round Robin groups. The finals for first place will be played by the two competitors scoring more wins i neach group of four players. Other top players in the event are MsEnroe, Gerulaitis, *Borg and Vilas*.

In a rehearsal of next month's Davis Cup finals, Gerulaitis defeated Italy's No 1 player, Barazzuti, 6—4, 1—6, 6—2 in a match of the B group. Gerulaaitis played fast tennis from the net to break *Barazzuti's service twice in* the first set. In the second set the Italian broke service in the third, fifth and seventh games, playing unusually aggressive tennis while the American was wayward from the baseline. In *the deciding third set, Gerulaitis* resumed attacking, reached the net quickly and volleyed successfully.—AP.

Rowing

Sponsors extend backing for British men

By Jim Railton

The British men's rowing team has at least financial security up to and includin gthe 1984 Olympic *Regatta in Los Angeles. This* sparkling news became apparent last night along with the champagne at a reception given *in* London for this year's British world championship teams. The hosts, the National Westminster Bank Limited, announced that, they were extending thei rsupport for the British men's team by injecting£120,000 *in sponsorship* for the period 1980-1984.

National Westminster Bank Limited became involved with the men's rowing team immediately after the 1977 world championships in Amsterdam. Over a three-year period since, which included last year's very expensixe world *championships in New Zealand* together with a training camp in Australia, National Westminster Bank's patronage to the sport will have been to the tune of £65,000.

The British team have given value for money with a bronze *medal in this year's* world championships on Lake Bled in Yugoslavia and six out of seven British men's crews reaching the finals.

Badminton

Gilks-Perry partnership boost to English game

By Richard Streeton

Gillian Gilks and Nora Perry have arranged to play regularly in future as a doubles pair. English badminton and the two players, who are both professionals under the game's new regulations, should benefit enormously from the new pairing. Mrs Gilks and Jane Webster will defend the women's doubles title at the English national championships at Coventry from December 7-9. After this Mrs Gilks and Mrs Perry will concentrate on developing their new *partnership* at tournaments in Britain and abroad.

By the time of the All-England, European and world champion*ships, which follow each other* between March and May, England should have a women's doubles pair capable of holding their own against any other combination. The new pair seem ideally suited with the necessary different skills *and personalities to complement* each other to perfection. Mrs Perry, a lively extrovert, and supreme at the net, has been without a regular partner since the former Anne Statt remarried and moved to Denmark. This winter *Mrs Perry has won four* championships with four different partners.

The fact that Mrs Gilks is no longer ploughing her lone furrow, he availability for singles and her new partnership with Mrs Perry will help the England selectors in several ways. After the national *championships, which are spon*sored by Jaguar sports equipment, they intend to choose eight men and eight women to form a national training party. All England's teams the rest of the season will come from these 16, who will *have special training weekends*

The selectors will not find it easy in some ways to select 16 players as there is still a wide gap between the current three or four top English players and most of their likely successors. They will *be hoping that the Coventry tour*nament provides firm evidence about the potential of some of the game's new faces. Meanwhile Ray Stevens and Kevin Jolly are seeded to meet in the men's final. A win for Stevens would give him his *fourth national singles title*, equalling Derek Talbot's record. Stevens and Mike Tredgett will be seeking their fifth consecutive men's doubles title.

Motor racing

DAYTONA BEACH: 1, W. Whittington, Porsche 935: 2, D. Whittington, Porsche 935: 3, B. Redman (GB), Porsche 935.

Real tennis

Seabrook stretches Cripps

By Roy McKelvie

Real tennis correspondent

Three professionals including the holder, Christopher Ronaldson, and an amateur, Alan Lovell, reached the quarter-final round of the Unigate Open real tennis tournament at Queen's Club yesterday. None of the winners dropped a set and the only one who came under any sort of pressure was Norwood Cripps, who beat Peter Seabrook, an amateur, by *6—4, 6—3, 6—2. It was a useful* exercise for Cripps as he now meets Lovell.

Seabrook distinguished himself in his previous match by beating John Ward, a very sticky customer for anyone, except the top few. He has improved immensely and for a time in the first set, in which he led 4—3 there was the thought that he might run Cripps close. A few mistakes, not all of them forced, crept into his game. Cripps began to find the openings, lay short chases and became sharp on the volley.

Winning the first set gave Cripps added confidence. He sailed into the second before Sea*brook had recovered his stability*. Thereafter many of the rallies were well-fought, there were class strokes from both men, with Cripps always appearing the winner provided he did not slacken.

Lovell and David Verney, whom he beat by 6—2, 6—0, 6—3, played a model match for those who enjoy the arts and charm of the game or those learning what it is all about. Verney is a very neat player. Lovell's game is also neat, but considerably more robust.

RESULTS: C. J. Ronaldson (Hampton Court) beat M. V. R. Wilson, 6—1, 6—1, 6—1: K. Sheldon (Leamington) beat J. J. J. Reiss, 6—3, 6—4, 6—2: N. A. R. Cripps (Eton) beat P. G. Seabrook, 6—4, 6—3, 6—2: A. C. Lovell beat L. D. Verney, 6—2, 6—0, 6—3.

For the record

Golf

SANTIAGO: Chilean Open championship: 281: R. Munoz (Venezuela), 70, 71, 66, 74. 282: M. Gregson (GB), 72, 71, 72, 67: R. Floyd (US), 70, 60, 69, 74. 285: B. Langer (W. Germany), 72, 72, 70, 69. 284: T. Aaron (US), 69, 68, 71, 76: A. Jacklin (GB), 69, 71, 72, 72: S. Torrance (GB), 70, 73, 72, 70: M. Pinero (Spain), 72, 66, 70, 76. Other totals: 285: G. Wiede (US), M. Wiebe (US). 287: R. Carrasco (US). 289: E. Murray (GB). 290: L. Collins (US). 291: Townsend (GB).

Yachting

PATTAYA, Thailand: World Optimist junior class. Second Race: 1, M. Heiskanen (Finland): 2, C. Hansen (Denmark): 3, M. Tapper (Finland). Overall: 1, C. Hansen, 10 pts: 2, M. Heiskanen, 17: 3, J. Peterson (Sweden), 25.

American football

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Giants 14, Washington Redskins 6: New Orleans Saints 37, Atlanta Falcons 6: Philadelphia Eagles 21, Green Bay Packers 10: Cincinnati Bengals 34, St Louis Cardinals 28: Buffalo Bills 16, New England Patriots 13: Pittsburgh Steelers 33, Cleveland Browns 30: Minnesota Vikings 23, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 22: San Diego Chargers 28, Kansas City Chiefs 7: Los Angeles Rams 26, San Francisco 49ers 20: Miami Dolphins 28, Baltimore Colts 24: Oakland Raiders 14, Denver Broncos 10.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Toronto Maple Leafs 4, New York Rangers 3: Hartford Whalers 3, Atlanta Flames 2: Buffalo Sabres 6, Minnesota North Stars 2, Boston Bruins 4, Montreal Canadiens 2: Washington Capitals 2, Quebec Nordiques 2: Chicago Black Hawks 6, St Louis Blues 3.

SPORT

Rugby Union

Four home unions are accused of having a Suez-like mentality

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The President of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa will be urging Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, to postpone his fact-finding mission to South Africa in January at least until such times as the four home rugby unions have made up their minds whether the British Lions should *tour that country next year.*

This is the understanding of Paul Stephenson, the one black member of the Sports Council, *who told me yesterday that in his* view it was inconceivable that the mission could return with a green light for the tour. "They cannot be satisfied with what they find," he said.

Mr Stephenson, however, does not share the belief that the home rugby unions, in deferring their decision on Sunday, have decided to wait until the return of the Sports Council's mission. "I am convinced," he added "that they have made up their minds to send the Lions but they are waiting until after the conference of the African Sports Council, in the Cameroons, on December 11 when one of the most important items on the agenda will concern British sporting contacts with South Africa. They want to deny African sport a platform for concerting counter measures in their event of going ahead with the tour."

Last Saturday, Mr Stephenson discussed the whole matter of the Lions' tour with Mickey Steele-Bodger, one of two RFU representatives on the four home unions' committee. "After that conversation" Mr Stephenson told me, "I am left with the strongest *suspicion* that the deferment of a decision is a deliberate ploy, a waiting game for, with a Suez-like mentality, they say 'to hell with *foreign opinion and we're going* in whatever happens, strong in our belief that playing rugby builds bridges against apartheid.'"

"This belief flies in the face of United Nations policy, of Commonwealth policy—the British Government subscribes to the Gleneagles agreement discouraging sporting contracts with South Africa—and of the EEC. If the four home unions really are bent on self righteously defying world opinion, they must be aware of *the consequences.*

"Firstly, African and other third world countries will launch a massive diplomatic and political offensive against Britain in an attempt to isolate her and to prevent her participation in the Moscow Olympic Games. If this fails, then many of those countries will boycott the event. Secondly, and yet more certain, the black Commonwealth countries will destroy the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

I was unable last night to contact Mr Steele-Bodger to ask him for his comments. But Albert Agar, the RFU's second representative on the Home Unions committee, denied categorically that they were waiting for the meeting of the African Council in the Cameroons. "I wasn't even aware of the dates", he told me. "The simple truth is that we haven't yet made up our minds." The fact may be that the Unions themselves have still to decide their individual position.

Melville and Davies could be the answer to England's problem

By Peter West

After the one-point defeat by New Zealand, England have almost two months to wait before they *play their first championship* match, against Ireland, at Twickenham on January 19. As well as the four divisional games against the All Blacks, which have been regarded as trials in themselves, the selectors plan to have a final trial on January 5.

England's national party, in any case, will be summoned for training over that weekend and it will *be surprising and disappointing if* the selectors should fail to ask Huw Davies, the young Coventry stand-off half, to join it. It would have *done something* for Davies's confidence if, after his exciting tour with England in the Far East, the selectors had made him a member of the party *earlier this* month. But he had a poor game for England B against France B in Brussels, the climax to several difficult weeks after his arrival at his new club.

At Cambridge tomorrow, he has a useful opportunity to give the hierarchy a nudge when he plays with Nigel Melville at half-back for Mickey Steele-Bodger's XV. It needs no crystal ball to suggest that the Melville-Davies combination, if properly nurtured, might prove itself a longstanding answer to a longstanding England problem.

Having declined to follow the example of their northern counterparts by playing Alan Old, or even to have *him* in the training party, the national selectors deprived themselves of England's shrewdest midfield general, as well as a man who would have solved their problems about goal kicking. If it is unlikely that they will experience a sudden change of heart, it makes it the more important to encourage a young *player of Davies's undoubted* potential, who should bring some snap and crackle to the position and who is also an effective kicker.

Assuming Alastair Hignell is fit again by the new year, he could return at full back. The selectors *have clearly little confidence in* his goal kicking and there must be widespread sympathy for Hignell, whose career in recent *seasons has been plagued by* injuries.

The right combination at half-back is not yet resolved, which makes it all the more desirable to stage a final trial. The selectors must want to see Steve Smith *opposed to Ian Peck,* the Cambridge captain, and they would have the opportunity, at some stage in the game, of sending on *Melville to see how he shapes up.*

It is doubtful whether England can improve on the front five of the pack on duty last Saturday but John Scott, at No 8, where Roger Uttley is an obvious alternative, may have something to do to reassess his claim. He did not impose himself on affairs against New Zealand and some of his short range distribution, when the scrummage was slewed, was untidy. Equally untidy was some of Colclough's distribution at the lineout.

As Graham Mourie's All Blacks flew out of London yesterday (Monday) for one last match in Italy, their highly respected *manager, Russ Thomas,* let it be known that he thought British rugby had become obsessed by the scrummage, Peter West writes. "*Everyone here seems to think* that scrummaging is what rugby's all about", he said. "There's a danger of forgetting that its a 15-*man game*".

Everything starts in the scrummage, as even the amiable Mr Thomas would agree, but for all his experience here in the past two seasons—and it is a tribute to *All Black strength* that *most* of their opponents do not think they can beat them by playing an expansive game—there is no doubt that we have been aware of a sad deterioration in the quality of British back play.

Mr Thomas paid a nice tribute to the firmness of British refereeing, particularly in the way they dealt with the pile-up. He thought *the pile-up had been evolved as* a counter against New Zealand's traditional rucking skills and he said it was a pity that any law in rugby should allow it to exist. "The world needs New Zealand rugby, so why try to nullify the game of a country that has given so much to sport?" This cri de coeur is understandable.

The All Blacks' departure was *an occasion* for plenty of good quotes. Mr Thomas said his country had been blessed with some great Rugby captains and Mourie *had certainly joined* their number. A young rebuilt side had developed well and it had been excellent team *spirit* that pulled *them through against England.*

The manager also observed that there seemed no danger of All Black rugby being over-exposed *in these islands.* "Murrayfield and Twickenham were full. Otley could have been filled three times over, no doubt. You need New Zealand rugby and we're responding to your call."

Eric Watson, the coach, asserted that the display of the *North's forwards* at Otley was the best he had seen in years. He thought England tended to underestimate themselves, but that they had *the material* to beat Wales.

Boxing

Sibson's former opponent in coma

New York, Nov 25.—Willie *Classen,* an American middleweight knocked out recently in two rounds by Britain's Tony Sibson was in a critical condition in a coma here tonight after anothr contest two days ago.

Classen, 29, a native of Puerto Rico, has not regained consciousness since he was knocked out by Wilford Scypion, of Texas, in the 10th round of a bout at Madison *Square Garden.*

Classen, who underwent surgery yesterday for a brain haemorrhage, was examined by a New York State Athletic Commission doctor in his corner after absorbing a numbe o fpowerful head blows late i nthe ninth round.

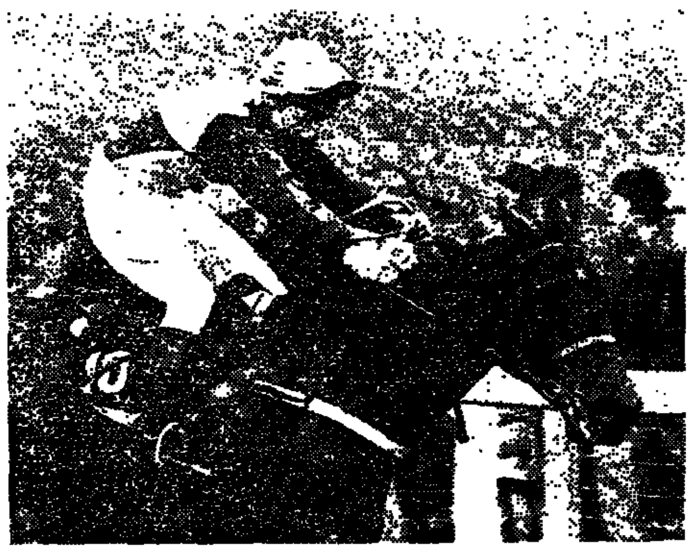
He was allowed to continue, but when the bell rang for the 10th round he barely raised his *gloves* an dwas knocked unconscion sby a right hand.

Classen was automatically suspended for 30 days under the New York *Commission's rules* after his previous bout, on October 9, when he was knocked out by Sibson in London. Commission *doctors said Classen* underwent a neurological examination two weeks ago.

Marvis Frazier, the 18-year-old son of the former world heavyweight champion, leads the United States team in the world junior championships from December 10 to 16 in Yokohama, Japan.

From Las Vegas, where the world middleweight champion Vito Antuofermo, is preparing for his title defence against Marvin Hagler on Friday, the champion pronounced himself in the best shape of his career.

Racing



Determination personified: Midnight Court and Francome.

Francome judged fit for Midnight Court trial

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

John Francome is all set to resume his successful partnership with the 1978 Gold Cup winner, *Midnight Court,* at *Huntingdon* today. Francome returned to action at Windsor yesterday after an absence lasting 12 days and declared that he was feeling absolutely fine after three hard races. He did not win any of them, but in away that did not matter. What counted as far as he was concerned was the back which has been causing him so much discomfort of late, still felt all right at the end of the day. The two previous times he had tried to resume race riding this month he had to give up after only one ride.

Since his last visit to a racecourse at Newbury 12 days earlier Francome underwent a course of physiotherapy and had two bones put back into place one of either side of his back. The nearest he got to winning yesterday was on Jimmy Hill in the second division of the Royal Borough Novices Hurdle. But after being perfectly placed all the way, Jimmy Hill had no answer when Richard Rowe gave Renucci his head.

Francome's first ride of the day *was on that* lovable character, Sonny Somers, in the Salt Hill Handicap Steeplechase. Showing all the enthusiasm for which his *career has long been famous* this remarkable 17-year-old jumped splendidly until he began to tire in the straight. Towards the end *Sonny Somers was no match for* Mender, but he still managed to finish third on this his first appearance of the season. *Mender's easy victory was some* consolation to Hywel Davies and Roddy Armytage for the misfortune which befell Straight Jocelyn in *Saturday's Hennessy Cognac* Gold Cup. Happily Straight Jocelyn is none the worse for that mishap and nor is Gaffer, who fell in the same race.

Gaffer's trainer Fulke Walwyn was relieved to see Aalco win the the Round Oak Novices Steeplechase yesterday. Aalco was the last horse to win for his yard before it succumbed to coughing and only the second to win since then. Aalco jumped well yesterday and ought to win again before long in similar company.

Incidentally, Walwyn told me that he intended saddling the Queen Mother's four-year-old, Rhyme Royal, for the second division of the Regents Novices Hurdle at Sandown Park on Friday. That will be Rhyme Royal's first race under National Hunt *rules* and there was a glint of enthusiasm in Walwyn's eye when he remarked: "I think that he's a bit special just on the way he *has schooled* at home: he really flew his hurdles this morning".

In the absence of Roadhead, who won the Staveley Steeplechase at Wolverhampton yesterday, *Midnight Court* has only three opponents in the Peterborough Steeplechase, one of which is his stable companion, Chumson, who won the New Zealand Grand National before coming to this country. The other runners are S and So who also spent his formative days in New Zealand, where he too did well, and Maytide. Chumson's "victory" this season was achieved in a walk-over at Chepstow. Last season his form here was good without being good enough to make me think that he will trouble his talented stable companion, who went through the season before last unbeaten.

STATE OF GOING (official): Huntingdon, good; Plumpton, soft; Teeside Park, good. Tomorrow: Kelso, good to soft; Haydock Park, good (last 2f of hurdles course, good to firm).

Huntingdon programme

12.45 PAXTON HURDLE (Div I: novices: £528: 2m 200yd)

1.15 TETWORTH CHASE (Novices: £908: 2m)

1.45 BEDFORD CHASE (Handicap: £996: 3m 100yd)

2.15 HOUGHTON HURDLE (Selling: £403: 3m)

2.45 PETERBOROUGH CHASE (£1,601: 2½m)

3.15 PAXTON HURDLE (Div II: novices: £522: 2m 200yd)

1	00-1000	Yeoman, G. James, 10-12-3	P. Forsyth 7
3	4-	Irish Poet, G. Huffer, 5-11-7	J. Pearce
5	f10f0f-	Izzyfast, H. Westbrook, 6-11-7	J. McLaughlin 7
6	4040-	Joannis Swift, J. Webber, 6-11-7	A. Webber
7	00	Linconiou, D. Morley, 5-11-7	R. R. Davies
8	04030	Paratus, R. Carter, 5-11-7	Mr P. Webber
9	p242-03	Prairie Green, G. Bennion, 5-11-7	Mr W. Bennion
10	200-	Price Review, Miss S. Harris, 5-11-7	Mr J. Sharp 1
15	p0-000	Elliotts Wood, G. Vergette, 4-11-0	P. Kelly
18		Hyoidion, G. P-Gordon, 4-11-0	J. Bulchard
20	2	Longcliffe, P. Feleve, 4-11-0	C. Tinkler
21	p0p-00	Long John, N. Graham, 4-11-0	P. Burgoyne 4
23	pp00	Marshal Night, G. Hubbard, 4-11-0	Mr J. Hargreaves 7
24		Multiply, Mrs J. Pitman, 4-11-0	P. Blacker
25	0	Northern Magic, M. Ryan, 4-11-0	A. Coonan 4
26	0	Rolingo, A. Dalton, 4-11-0	M. Gibson
27	00	Sharp Fiddle, R. Boss, 4-11-0	D. McAllister 4

11-4 *Longcliffe,* 100-30 *Irish Poet,* 5-1 *Prairie Green,* 11-2 Multiply, 8-1 Price Review, 10-1 Yeoman, 12-1 Paratus, 14-1 Izzyfast, 20-1 others.
*Doubtful runner

Huntingdon selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

12.45 Gay Herald. 1.15 SPRING FROLIC is specially recommended. 1.45 Tutor's Best. 2.15 Regency Wood. 2.45 Midnight Court. 3.15 Irish Poet.

Plumpton programme

1.0 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Div I: 3-y-o novices: £575: 2m)

1	13323	Glitter Star, B. Wise, 11-5	J. Akehurst 7
5	2	Bihas Bounty, J. Pitt, 10-10	I. Cox 4
6	p0	Caubeen, Mrs N. Smith, 10-10	A. Webb
7		Chetinkaya, P. Mitchell, 10-10	R. Hughes
8		Darby Green, V. Cross, 10-10	J. King
9	0	Gazo Mwe, D. Grissell, 10-10	Mrs D. Grissell 3
10	00	Getting Warmer, D. Gandolfo, 10-10	P. Barton
11		Jubilee Imp, L. Holt, 10-10	R. Atkins
13		Landford Lady, S. Matthews, 10-10	—
15		New Top, Miss A. Sinclair, 10-10	R. Rowell
16	04	North London, N. Callaghan, 10-10	S. Smith Eccles

1.30 GALLEANO STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £1,142: 2m)

2.0 BALCOMBE HURDLE (Handicap: £967: 2½m)

2.30 STANMER HURDLE (Handicap: selling: £432: 2m)

3.0 SCAYNES HILL STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £1,504: 3m 1f)

508 4411 Tudor Mystery (CD), E. Beeson, 9-10-9 .... H. Goldstein

9-4 *Brown Jock,* 4-1 *Physical,* 5-1 *Tudor Mystery,* 11-2 French Rebel, 8-1 The Grandson, 10-1 Rathlek, 12-1 Mounthooly.

3.30 NOVEMBER HURDLE (Div II: 3-y-o novices: £569: 2m)

602	42412	Greg (D), P. Mitchell, 11-5	R. Hughes
603	1	Mount Harvard (D), N. Henderson, 11-5	S. Smith Eccles
604	1	Rook Wood (D), R. Hannon, 11-5	A. Turnell
608		Double Dance, R. Smyth, 10-10	R. Atkins
609		Glenhawk, H. Price, 10-10	C. Gwilliam 7
610	000	Ice Prince, Miss B. Sanders, 10-10	G. Jones
611	0	Leith Hill Flyer, M. Francis, 10-10	C. Brown
612	0	Lyric Girl, F. Bowles, 10-10	John Williams
613	34	Morton The Hatter, R. Smyth, 10-10	J. King
614	0	Mr Gunner, A. Davison, 10-10	G. Gracey 4
615		Mrs McNicholas, D. Sasse, 10-10	J. Gorbridge 4
618	4	Ramlella, V. Cross, 10-10	P. Haynes
619		Zanana, S. Matthews, 10-10	—

5-2 Rook Wood, 7-2 Mount Harvard, 4-1 Glenhawk, 5-1 Greg, 6-1 Morton The Hatter, 12-1 Ice Prince, 16-1 others.

Plumpton selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.0 Bihas Bounty. 1.30 Chichester Bird. 2.0 Scalded Cat. 2.30 Scots Gambol. 3.0 Brown Jock. 3.30 Glenhawk.

Windsor results

1.0 (1.4) ROYAL BOROUGH HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £587: 2m)

Heroic, b g, by High Top—Edissa (Mrs D. Meats), 4-11-0 .... P. Leach (9-2) 1

Silver Sovereign .... S. Shilston (10-1) 2

Fair Hunter .... A. Coogan (4-1) 3

ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Documentary (4th), 6-1 Buffoon, 13-2 Un Pour Tous, 12-1 Al Forman, 14-1 Day Boy, The Military Gent, 16-1 Coup de Soleil, Trooper Solomon, Tuthill Lad, 33-1 Bay Mist (p), Beau Wink ...

Southwell

12.45 (12.47) EAKRING HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £466)

Cornard, ch g, by Turenne—Coronation Morn, 8-10-4 .... J. McLaughlin (5-2) 1

News Lane .... G. Fletcher (11-2) 2

Avon Salmon .... A. Waltham (14-1) 3

ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Hallez-Loup (4th), 10-1 Golden Gayle (p), Pauillac (p), 12-1 *Ewen's Rock,* Gather Ye Roses, 20-1 Guinness Grove, Civil Servant (p), Mr Lovely (p), Stand Up (p), Lexicon Lass (f), Ally Macleod, Rich Encounter, Chuckling Lad, Knipton Lass. 18 ran.

Teesside Park programme

12.45 CLEADON HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £528: 2m 176yd)

1.15 SEABURN CHASE (Handicap: £415: 2m)

1.45 SUNDERLAND CHASE (Handicap: £1,629: 3m 31yd)

2.15 WHITBURN HURDLE (Handicap: £918: 2m 176yd)

2.45 DIAMOND HALL CHASE (Novices: £852: 3½m)

3.15 CLEADON HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £545: 2m 176yd)

TEESSIDE PARK SELECTIONS (By Our Racing Correspondent)

Wolverhampton

Chancery Division

Final Rolls-Royce distribution of assets suspended

In re R-R Realisations Ltd (formerly Rolls-Royce Ltd)

Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor

The court dismissed an appeal by the liquidators of R-R Realisations Ltd against an order by Mr Registrar Hunt in the Companies Court refusing them leave to distribute to creditors and stockholders assets of the company remaining in their hands, irrespective of any debt, claim or liability or in damages which might prove to be owing by the company to the dependants of persons killed or injured in the crash of an Indian Airlines Caravelle powered by Rolls-Royce engines at Bombay on October 12, 1976.

His Lordship said that distribution could still go ahead if the liquidators were able to obtain insurance cover for the dividend, which would protect the company if it were held liable to pay compensation. He directed that his order dismissing the appeal should not be drawn up for three weeks, to give the liquidators time to negotiate the insurance.

Mr William Stubbs, QC, and Mr David Richards for the liquidators; Mr Allan Heyman, QC, and Mr Michael Kennedy for the claimants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that after *the company* went into a creditors' winding up in 1971 the receivers sold the company's aero-engine division to a new company. *Largely* as a result of that, the liquidators were able to pay all the company's debts of which they knew, and to pay substantial sums *to the stockholders:* the holders of the ordinary stock received 55p in the £. On January 20, 1975, leave was given to the liquidators *to distribute the company's assets* without regard to any claims made after February 1, 1975, but various difficulties prevented a final distribution. On October 8, 1979, there was a press announcement that a final distribution of 41p in the £—some £5¼m—was to be *made on December 6.*

The findings of an inquiry were published on September 22, 1978. Nothing that could be regarded as a claim against the company or its liquidators was made on behalf of the victims of the accident or their families until a solicitors' *letter* of *September* 25, 1979 was delivered by hand addressed to a firm of accountants and marked for the attention of "R. Nicholson, Esq," one of the joint liquidators.

Enclosed in the letter was a copy of a letter to the company asking various questions about the starboard engine of the aircraft (held by the inquiry to be a primary cause of the disaster) and stating that if the information was not provided it might be necessary to bring proceedings against all *existing Rolls-Royce companies* remotely thought to be involved. No reply was sent on behalf of the liquidators to the letter, or to *one dated October 15.* So on October 31 the solicitors sent to the accountants what might be called a telex before action. Finally, on *November 6,* the solicitors for the liquidators and the company replied. That delay in dealing with what was plainly a possible claim was most regrettable and, if the letters had been treated more responsibly the liquidators might well have postponed taking the steps they took and in particular making the press announcement of October 8.

Up to date 55 writs had been issued, but not served. A copy of one writ by two partners in a firm of solicitors (both suing as *administrators of* one of the victims) had been put in evidence. The claims were based on negligence and breach of statutory duty in *inter alia, the design, manufacture,* assembly and maintenance of the aircraft and its starboard engine, and in falling to advise as to the correct *maintenance and servicing* procedures in respect of it. All the writs had been issued under emergency legal aid certificates.

The company was entitled to the benefit of an insurance policy for U.S.$115m (about £53m) in respect of accident liability. In those circumstances Mr Stubbs contended, the liquidators ought to be given the relief sought and the registrar was wrong in dismissing their application for leave to distribute.

Mr Stubbs's case was that the *claims against the company* were at present very general and unparticularized and that, so far as could be judged, they were unlikely to *succeed; that, in any* event, the insurance cover of $115m was virtually certain to cover any successful claims since it was *inconceivable* that *more* than an average of £1m would be recovered in each action; and that the time and money expended *in preparing for the final distribution* would be wasted if the distribution were postponed.

Mr Stubbs's *primary submission* was that the liquidators should in any event be given liberty to distribute since they were under an implied statutory duty to complete the liquidation and to effect a final distribution within a reasonable time. That imposed a correlative duty on creditors to make *their claims with all reasonable diligence* and if a claim was made at a late stage it was for the creditor to *show* that he had *acted with diligence.* That the plaintiffs had not done, and so the liquidators should be given the leave they sought.

In the alternative Mr Stubbs submitted that the order sought should, in effect, instead of being an order absolute, be an order nisi; if a later claim was made, the court might impose terms on the claimant in order to prevent injustice to others being caused by a postponement of the distribution; accordingly, the liquidators should be given leave to distribute unless the claimants made proper provision for payment of the additional expense *entailed by a postponement of the* distribution, although it was common ground that the order of January 20, 1975 could not be relied on in respect of claims coming into existence after the date of the order.

Caution had to be exercised in applying authorities on the administration of the estate of a deceased person to a case dealing with a *voluntary liquidation.* The effect of a distribution in a voluntary liquidation was different from that in the administration of an estate. Another point to be borne in mind was the standing of the claimant in relation to those to whom distribution was to be made. If the claimant were a creditor it might well be right to be slower to shut him out where the distribution was to be made to beneficiaries rather than to other creditors. Correspondingly, in the voluntary liquidation of a company, it might well be right to give the claimant greater latitude if the distribution was to be made to members rather than to other creditors.

Only two cases dealing with voluntary liquidations were cited. In *In re House Property and Investment Co Ltd* ([1954] Ch 576) Mr Justice Roxburgh rejected a claim by a lessor to have enough of the assets of a company set aside to meet all future liabilities for the payment of rent under a lease, saying that there was a implied obligation under the Companies Act, 1948, that liquidators should complete the liquidation in a reasonable time. That was fully accepted, but there was no necessarily any *corresponding duty* on creditors to make their claims with all reasonable diligence although prudence and convenience *would require them to do* so.

In *In re Sale Continuation Ltd* (unreported, November 24, 1977) the liquidator wanted to pay a final dividend but there was a claimant whose "exceedingly stale claims" had long ago been rejected by the liquidator. Mr Justice Brightman granted an application by the liquidator under section 307 of the Companies Act for an order authorizing him to distribute the assets without providing for any claims of the claimant which had not been established. He rejected any idea that a claimant could keep a voluntary liquidator on tenterhooks for an indefinite period by deciding not to sue or not to prove or abandon his claim.

In that case the judge described the delay as "grotesque", which could not be said in the present case. It was also a case of an alleged creditor against other creditors and not against members of the company, as in the present case.

As to delay, it was no fault of the claimants that neither of their letters provoked any activity on the part of the liquidators until the following month, or that the liquidators should in the meantime have been proceeding with arrangements for the final distribution to stockholders. The 1[illegible] or 13 months' delay could not be regarded as being a period that ought to bar their claim.

On the *subject of insurance,* it seemed highly improbable that, on the facts as known at present, cover of more than £50m would *not be sufficient* to meet any claims that succeeded. More important, it was not known whether the insurance company would *accept responsibility under the* policy if the company's liability were established. In the circumstances, ought the court to make *an order* having the effect of destroying any chances of success if the claims were well founded but the insurance company escaped *liability?* The question almost answered itself.

His Lordship's conclusions were:

(1) In deciding whether to make an order under section 307, notwithstanding a last-minute claim by alleged creditors, *the test to* be applied was whether in all the circumstances of the case it would be just to make such an order. There *was no rule that claimants* had to establish that they were not guilty of wilful default and that there had been no want of due *diligence, although any such default* or lack of diligence would be an important factor in determining what was just.

(2) On making such order the court could impose such terms and conditions it thought fit and the test of what was fitting should be applied to any application that an order authorizing such a distribution should be refused or suspended only if the claimant *bore the expenses thrown away* by tardiness in asserting their claims.

(3) Where an order was sought in order to facilitate a distribution between members of the company, the court would be more reluctant to grant it than if the distribution was to be made to creditors.

On those conclusions, it was *plain that the application for leave* to distribute must be refused. It would not be just to make such an order and shut out the claimants, particularly *as the proposed* distribution was to members of the company and not creditors. As for requiring the claimants to *reimburse the wasted expenditure* on the part of the liquidators as the price of having the order to distribute refused, it would be *neither just nor fitting to impose* any such term. The registrar was right and the liquidators' appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Frere, Cholmeley & Co.

Advertising petitions

Mr Justice Oliver announced in the Chancery Division that it had become apparent that considerable difficulty was being experienced at the present time in advertising petitions for winding up orders, in accordance with rule 28 of the Winding-Up Rules, which came into force on April 1, 1979. Initially it was due to a temporary industrial dispute, holding up production of *The London Gazette,* but although *that dispute* had now terminated, punctual production of the *Gazette* was, it was understood, still likely to be *hampered by staff shortages,* with the result that in some cases advertisements were still not being published within the time prescribed by the rule. That, of course, sterilized the whole object of advertising.

In those circumstances, and in order to avoid having to stand over petitions until proper advertisement could take place, his Lordship proposed, after consultation with the Vice-Chancellor and the other judges of Group A, until further notice to exercise the discretion, which was vested in the court by rule 28, by accepting as compliance with the rule, and as an alternative to an advertisement *in The Gazette,* an advertisement in any newspaper for the advertisement of a winding up petition under the former rule 28 (*in force before April 1, 1979*). The advertisement should, of course, continue to be in the form prescribed in the present rule 28 (2).

PERSONAL CHOICE

stle: The Record Breakers (BBC 1, 5.10).

County Hospital, in Chicago, the subject of tonight's ve (BBC 2, 9.25) is both fact and symbol. Factually, it is rug addicts, alcoholics, gunshot victims, knifing victims poor in pain—all from the city's ghetto—go to be saved . No other hospital will take them. They are too poor or k, usually both. Symbolically, it is where 50 per cent of the go because that is the logical place for them to find the oblivion that social deprivation has marked them out for lives. Jack Pizzey has come up with a report that is ly unpleasant to watch and which constantly stings the o a new awareness of how little most of us really have to about provided our paths do not lead to places like unty Hospital. Man alive? Only just alive, is what documentary is saying.

vation of a different sort, the tenderness of a mother and ding arm of a father, is the theme of another of tonight's ntaries, A Chance for Thomas (ITV, 7.00). This is the our films made to mark the Year of the Child, filmed in d South America, Africa and Germany. Tonight's story is 13-year-old Kenyan boy who runs away to Nairobi to first, a street boy and then another rehabilitation case for Starehe youth centre. It is a remarkably restrained; ental film and all the more impressive because of that.

ht's British Film Awards presentation (ITV, 10.30) to be one of those occasions when the prize that every is confident ought to go in one direction if there is any ft in this world, perversely goes in another direction r. Therein, of course, lies the fun of these testimonial n an increasingly regulated world, it is comforting to h a situation where everybody is shown to be fallible.

ersecuted are in the spotlight on Radio 4 tonight. In the new series called Still Small Voices (11.35 am), the s the Czechoslovakian playwright Vaclav Havel, recently ial and imprisoned. George Pravda reads from some of vorks. Then, at 7.20, in Without Honour, three victims of McCarthy's vilification of China experts in America— ttimore, Theodore White and Edmund Clubb—recall eriences which led to the purge.

HE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; AT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.35 am For Schools, colleges. 9.35 Mathshow. 9.58 Talkabout (Mog's Christmas). 10.16 Look and Read (Skyhunter). 10.38 Resource Unit. 11.00 Watch (the Nativity: 2). 11.17 It's Your Choice: Looking Ahead (play). 11.38 Taking Shape (horse and rider). 12.05 pm General Studies (Reflections on The Long Search). Close down at 12.30.
12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: a Greek-flavoured edition (music, dance and art) and an item on photographing the sunken Titanic.
1.45 Bagpuss: story for the very young.
Closedown at 2.00.
2.14 Rendez-vous: France. 2.30 The Plough and the Stars: 3 (r). Close down at 3.00.
3.25 Dechrau Siarad Welsh lesson.
3.55 Play School: Tony Pickering's story Nobody Understood.
4.20 Secret Squirrel cartoon Pink Sky Mobile.
4.25 Jackanory: Peter Barkworth reads from Abel's Island by William Stieg.
4.40 Buford Files and Dinky Dog: cartoons.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround junior newsreel
5.10 The Record Breakers a record-breaking photograph of a record-breaking poster (243 metres long). Also, the world's biggest starfish.
5.40 News with Richard Baker.
5.55 Nationwide: topics in the news.
6.50 Rolf Harris's Cartoon Time includes Daffy Duck.
7.20 Film Countdown (1967) Space fiction thriller with James Caan, Robert Duvall, Joanna Moore. About a mission to the moon.
9.00 News: with Richard Whitmore.
9.25 Time Express: new, American four-part series with Hollywood horror star Vincent Price and his wife Carol Browne as hosts on journeys through time in which people can re-live their past.
10.15 Mainstream: the Humphrey Burton arts review that covers the regions in a breathless kind of way.
10.45 Panorama: The Kennedy Cover-up. Michael Cockerill reports on fresh evidence about the death of President John F. Kennedy which has emerged since his assassination. First shown in March, 1978.
11.35 News and Weather.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Scotland: 10.38 am Schools. 11.38 Schools. 12.40 pm News. 5.55 Reporting Scotland. 6.50 On the Green. 10.15 Current Account. 10.45 Can Seo. 11.20 Write Away. 11.35 Mainstream. 12.05 am News. Wales: 10.38 am I Ysgolion. 4.45 pm Ci O'r Enw Samson. 5.55 Wales Today. 6.50 Heddiw. 7.05 Pobol y Cwm. 7.35 High Chaparral. 8.25 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. 11.45 pm News. Northern Ireland: 3.53 News. 5.55 Scene Around Six. 6.50 Green Rock. 11.45 News. England: 5.55 pm Regional magazines. 6.50 East, Sporting Types. London, South-East, Cartoon Time. Midlands, Flavour of the Midlands. North, Hometown. North East, What's Cooking? North West, We are the Grumbleweeds. South, Pure Invention. South West, Music Quiz. West, Day Out.

BBC 2

10.05 Business World: programme about a Tesco planning application (r). Close down at 10.30.
11.00 Play School: same as BBC 1, 3.55.
11.25 Write Away: how bad spellers can learn to write a cheque (r).
11.40 A Child's Place: repeat of last Sunday's programme about a child's rights. Close down at 12.05.
2.30 The Engineers; all about a civil engineer (r).
3.00 Whistle Blowers: TV journalism. The legality and morality of fact-finding (r).
3.30 The Living City: sociology series. Repeat of Free Time. Close down at 3.55.
4.10 A Taste of Work: helping to find jobs for the young jobless.
5.35 Laurel and Hardy: Beau Chumps*. Stan and Oliver in the Foreign Legion. Later re-made, in a longer version, as The Flying Deuces.
6.10 Grange Hill: comprehensive school serial. Tonight: the teachers' strike.
6.35 The Waltons: can the herbalist help the injured Elizabeth to walk again?
7.20 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.
7.30 Testament of Youth: repeat of part 4 of this exceptionally faithful TV adaptation of the Vera Brittain autobiography. Tonight: more cruel blows for Vera.
8.25 Chronicle: the Shadow of the Templars. The previously untold story of secret societies and an ecclesiastical Mafia at the time of the Crusades.
9.25 Man Alive: I call it Murder. Documentary about the Chicago hospital which is a microcosm of the violent city it serves (see Personal Choice).
10.15 The Mike Harding Show: comedy show, starring this Rochdale comedian.
10.45 A Memorable Match: 1977 open golf championship: Jack Nicklaus v Tom Watson (repeat).
11.20 News and Weather.
11.30 The Old Grey Whistle Test: pop music show, with American singer Ellen Foley and the band called Chelsea.
12.05 am Another two of the poems entered for this year's National Poetry Competition. They are read by Gary Watson. Close down at 12.15.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools. 9.30 Experiment (Chemistry). 9.47 Seeing and Doing (Christmas). 10.04 Reading with Lenny. 10.16 Watch your Language (interviews). 10.35 English (the history of printing). 11.05 Leapfrog. 11.22 Look Around (about refuse) 11.39 The Land (Northern Pennines).
12.00 am Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings: two stories told by Bernard Cribbins.
12.10 pm Rainbow: for the very young. The theme: being miserable.
12.30 The Sullivans: Australian family story.
1.00 News.
1.20 Thames News.
1.30 About Britain: the man who spends his life making children laugh in his little Big Top—Rico Waddi.
2.00 After Noon Plus: footballer George Best is back in the studio to answer more viewers' phone calls. Also, mountain explorer Hamish MacInnes; and the cuts in nursery education.
2.45 The Love Boat: American series about life on board a cruiser.
3.45 Georgie Fame and Company pop music show.
4.15 Get it Together: even more pop music. With the Boomtown Rats.
4.45 Magpie: a visit to the city of Jerusalem.
5.15 Star Gardens: the exotic plants and garden produce of Ernie Wise. Also tips on growing geraniums.
6.00 Thames News: with Andrew Gardner, Rita Carter †
6.25 Help! Joan Shenton solves viewers' problems.
6.35 Crossroads: motel series. Continued.
7.00 A Chance for Thomas: new four-part series about children in need. This one is about a boy from Kenya (see Personal Choice).
7.30 International Gymnastics: displays by the Soviet Gymnastic and Sports Display Team. From Wembley. Includes Nelli Kim and Nikolai Andrianov.
8.30 George and Mildred: doubt is thrown on George's discharge from the Army. Comedy series.
9.00 Before the Monsoon: Roots of Violence (part 1) Documentaries about the progress of Indian democracy, since Independence in 1947. A three-part series.
10.00 News.
10.30 Evening News British Film Awards 1979: the best this, that and the other. Princess Alexandra makes the awards.
11.30 Lou Grant: newspaper series Tonight: radiation leaks at a chemical plant.
12.25 Close: Roy Hudd reads some poems.

George Best and Mary Parkinson in today's edition of After Noon Plus (ITV, 2.00)

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call.
10.00 News.
10.05 In Britain Now.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Whip Hand (5).
11.00 News.
11.05 Thirty-Minute Theatre: Words of Love.
11.35 Still Small Voices.
11.55 Sounding Off.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.20 Down Your Way.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Listen with Mother.
3.15 Men at Arms (1).†
4.10 Bookshelf.
4.40 Preview.
4.45 Short Story: An Obedience Lesson.
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Many a Slip.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Without Honour: Victims of communist purge in USA 30 years ago.
8.05 In Touch.
8.30 The Magic of Music.†
9.15 A Sideways Look at . . . The Olympic Games.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 The Hornblower Story.†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: The Widower (6).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News, weather.
12.15-12.23 am Inshore forecast.
VHF
6.50 am Regional news, weather.
7.50 Regional news, weather.
9.15-10.30 For Schools: Voix de France: Deutsch für die Oberstufe; The World of Work; Playtime.
10.45-12.00 For Schools: La France Aujourd'hui; Let's Move!; Music Club; Introducing Science.
2.00-3.00 pm For Schools: History—Not So Long Ago; Days That Made History; Stories and Rhymes.
5.50 Regional news, weather.
11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Por aqui (9).

Radio 3

6.55 am, Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Albinoni, le Roux, Handel, Telemann, Bach.†
8.05 Cricket Special: Australia v West Indies, first one-day international, commentary from Sydney (mw only)
11.20 Northern University Concert (cont. from vhf): Debussy, Brahms.†
12.05 pm BBC Welsh SO/Boettcher: Mozart (incl. Symphony 35)†
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents.
1.20 BBC WSO: Mahler (Symphony 1)†
2.25 The Polignac Salon.†
3.15 Chichester 904: String quartets: Janacek (no 2), Haydn (op 76, no 5)†
4.05 Interval Reading.
4.10 Chichester 904: Schubert (D887)†
4.55 Jazz Today.†
5.25 Homeward Bound.†
5.45 News.
5.50 Homeward Bound.†
6.15 At Home.
7.10 Lutoslawski conducts his Lacrimosa, Ten Polish Dances, Five Songs.†
7.45 Play: Like Dolls or Angels by Stephen Jeffreys.†
8.35 BBC Northern SO/Downes: Bennett, Mendelssohn Violin concerto), Ippolitov-Ivanov.†
9.50 The Beecham Legacy: Tchaikovsky (Symphony 3).†
10.50 Music in Our Time: Schuller, Foss, Shapey.†
11.55-12.00 News.
VHF only
8.05 am Records: Berlioz, Ravel, Boellmann, Dukas.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Soler and Arriaga.†
9.40 Settings of Ibsen: Grieg, Wolf, Delius.†
10.15-11.20 Northern University Concert: Beethoven, Stadler, Wilby.†

Radio 2

5.00 am News, Weather. 5.04 Tony Brandon.† 7.32 Terry Wogan.† 10.04, Jimmy Young.† 12.15 pm Waggoners' Walk. 12.30 Derek Hobson's Open House.† 2.15 David Hamilton.† 4.15 Much More Music.† 5.00 News. 5.05 Waggoners' Walk. 5.20 John Dunn.†
6.40 Party Political Broadcast (Labour).
6.45 Sports Desk. 7.02 Brian Fahey and the BBC Scottish Radio Orchestra.† 7.30 Folk 79.†
8.02 Tuesday Night is Gala Night. 9.02 Boxing Special. 11.02 Peter Clayton. 2.02 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.00 Dave Lee Travis. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.31 Paul Burnett. 2.00 pm Andy Peebles. 4.31 Kid Jensen. 7.00 Personal Call. 8.00 Mike Read. 9.50 Newsbeat. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00-5.0 am As Radio 2.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 9.02 pm Max Jaffa.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Laughter in the Air. 11.00 With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz 463m) at the following times.—6.00 am Newsdesk 7.00 World News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours 7.45 Network U.K. 8.00 World News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Europa 8.30 Talking about Music 9.00 World News 9.09 British Press Review 9.15 World Today 9.30 Financial News 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 The Tony Myatt Request Show 10.15 Nature Notebook 10.30 Sports International 11.00 World News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15 Letter from London 11.25 Scotland This Week 11.30 The Book Quiz 12.00 Radio Newsreel 12.15 pm Benny Green's Album Time 12.45 Sports Round-up 1.00 World News 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours 1.30 Network U.K. 1.45 The Sick Mind 2.30 John Peel 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Outlook 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary 5.00 World News 5.09 Scotland This Week 8.00 World News 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 World News 10.09 World Today 10.25 Scotland This Week 10.30 Financial News 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Round-up 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Shakespeare's Heroes 11.30 Thirty-Minute Theatre 12.00 World News 12.09 am News about Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 A Jolly Good Show 1.15 Outlook 1.45 Put Out More Flags 2.00 World News 2.09 British Press Review 2.15 Twentieth Century Piano Music 2.30 All Things Considered 3.00 World News 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 World Today 3.30 Benny Green's Album Time 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Sounds New 5.45 World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 194m, 94.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

HTV

As Thames except: 1.20 Report West Headlines. 1.25 Report Wales Headlines. 2.45 Family. 3.45 The Entertainers. 5.15 Maglia Gorilla. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Georgie Fame and Company. 10.00 News. Report West Headlines. 11.30 Celebrity Concert. Engelbert Humperdinck. 12.30 Weather.
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As general service except: 1.20 Penawdau Newyddion y Dydd. 4.15 Goglis. 6.00 Y Dydd. 10.00 News. Report Wales Headlines. 10.30 Ffilmiau'r 70 au. The Fly. 11.45 Evening News Film Awards. 12.40 Weather.
HTV WEST: As general service except: 1.25 Report West Headlines. 6.15 Report West.

Channel

As Thames except: 12.00-12.30 closedown. 1.20 Channel News. What's on Where. Weather. 5.15 Sam. 6.00 Report at Six. 10.28 Channel News, weather. 11.30 Christian, Song and Dance Man. 11.55 Weather.

Yorkshire

As Thames except. 1.20 pm Calendar News., weather. 2.45 Cabbages and Kings. 3.15 Calendar Tuesday. 5.15 Bonkers! 6.00 Calendar, weather. 11.30 Film, Cry Rape!

Border

As Thames except: 1.20 pm Border News. 5.15 Bonkers. 6.00 Lookaround. 11.30 Stars on Ice. 12.00 Border News.

Scottish

As Thames except: 11.39 Our Police (r). 1.25 News and Road and Weather. 2.45 Young Ramsay. 5.15 Cartoon, Popeye. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 What's Your Problem? 10.00 News. Scottish Headlines. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Roger Whittaker in Concert.

Southern

As Thames except: 1.20 pm Southern News, weather. 2.45 London Belongs to Me. 5.15 Dick Tracy Cartoon. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 11.30 Southern News Extra. 11.35 Fireside Theatre, Someday Soon. 12.30 am Weather. The Jackman Affair.

Tyne Tees

As Thames except: 9.20 am The Good Word, followed by North East Headlines. 1.20 pm North East News and Lookaround. 5.15 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Northern Life. 10.30 North East Headlines. 10.35 Come In, If You Can Get In. 11.05 Film, Age of Consent (James Mason, Helen Mirren). 1.15 am Epilogue.

Grampian

As Thames except: 9.20 am First Thing. 11.39 Our Police. 1.20 pm Grampian Headlines. 2.45 Young Ramsay. 5.15 Survival. 6.00 Grampian Today, weather. 6.05 Country Focus. 11.30 Celebrity Concerts: Al Martino. 12.25 am Reflections. 12.30 Grampian Headlines.

Granada

As Thames except: 1.20 Granada Reports. 2.45 Family. 5.10 This Is Your Right. 5.15 Crossroads. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.30 University Challenge. 11.30 Dan August.

ATV

As Thames except: 12.30 The Entertainers. Georgie Fame 1.20, ATV Newsdesk. 2.45 Family. 5.15 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 ATV Today. 11.30 Fantasy Island. 12.30 Stars on Ice.

Anglia

As Thames except. 1.25 Anglia News. 2.45 Fantasy Island. 3.45 Georgie Fame and Company. 5.15 Survival. 6.00 About Anglia. 11.30 Twist in the Tale. 12.25 Anthology.

Ulster

As Thames except: 1.20 Lunchtime. 2.45 Young Ramsay. 4.13 Ulster Headlines. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 11.30 Fireside Theatre. A Thousand Moons. 00.25 Bedtime.

Westward

As Thames except: 12.27 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 1.20 Westward Headlines. 5.15 Sam. 6.00 Westward Diary. 10.28 Westward News, weather 11.30 Christian, song and Dance Man. 11.55 Faith for Life. 12.00 Weather. Shipping forecast.

(continued on page 24)

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ALSO ON PAGE 23

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(continued on page 23)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The English-Speaking Union
ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION

The English-Speaking Union is pleased to announce the results of its English Language Competition, 1979, which was designed to stimulate new ideas in the fields of learing and teaching English, particularly as a medium of international communication. The prizes will be presented personally by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in Buckingham Palace on 6th December.

PRIZE WINNERS

£500 and a Silver Medal
"ROLE PLAYING FOR ADVANCED BUSINESS CLASSES"—J. A. Brms: "THE TEACHER OBSERVED"—A. L. W. Rees; "TEACHING ENGLISH IN ENGLISH"—Mrs. J. Willis.

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There will be an English Language Competition in 1980, and further information can be obtained from:—

David Hicks, Directors of Education,
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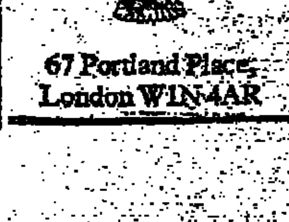

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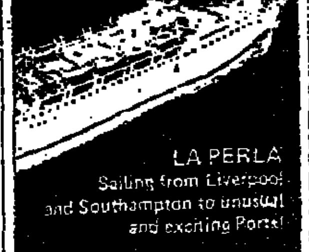

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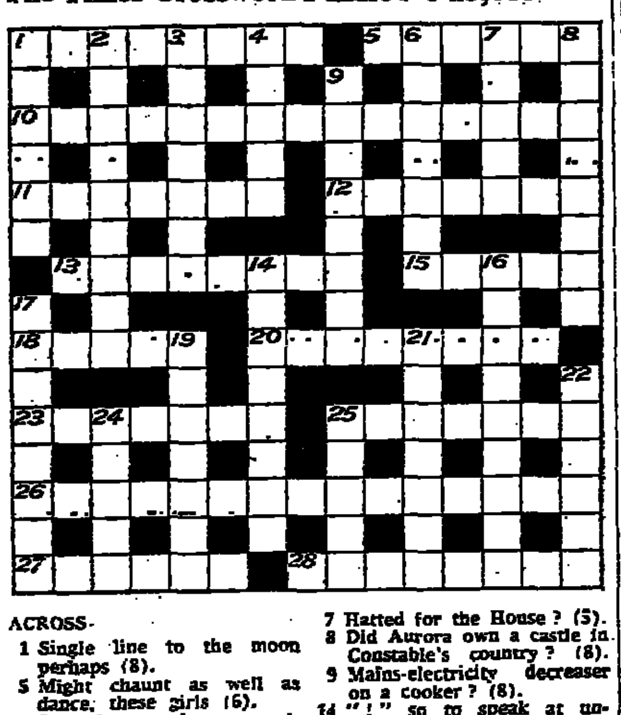
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,083



ACROSS
1 Single line to the moon perhaps (8).
5 Might chaunt as well as dance, these girls (6).
10 Sort of name of some sporting son of a gun? (6-9).
11 Because I, not yet teenage, was silly (7).
12 Dree weird perhaps—she, not we (7).
13 He pursues a career under the tricolour (8).
15 On with the dance, again—to produce a new model? (5).
18 Smaller film-scene picture? (5).
20 Pore over the battle—noodles in it perhaps (8).
23 Not an edifice of the Angles it seems (7).
25 Go astray? But I've turned back in time (7).
26 Do they sit down to an "ordinary" after trading in this? (3, 6, 6).
27 Star attractive to a speed-bird (6).
28 Quake-prone Islands? (8)

DOWN
1 Middling strict old lawgiver (6).
2 Feeds damaging horse in US (9).
3 The right partners make for lively tennis (7).
4 Dye, but I'm not left blue (5).
6 Attic scene in La Bohème, for instance (7).
7 Hatted for the House? (5).
8 Did Aurora own a castle in Constable's country? (8).
9 Mains-electricity decreaser on a cooker? (8).
14 "!" so to speak at unknown number of demands (8).
16 No space left for the jars to rattle? (3-6).
17 Chemicals suggest off-peak storage-heater charges (8).
19 Element of bafflement that wraps things up (7).
21 Honour about a buzz-bomb the Terriers rose to forestall (7).
22 He stays on his feet when boxed (6).
24 What the Doughboys sang over (5).
25 Could become a currency drain abroad (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,082

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